

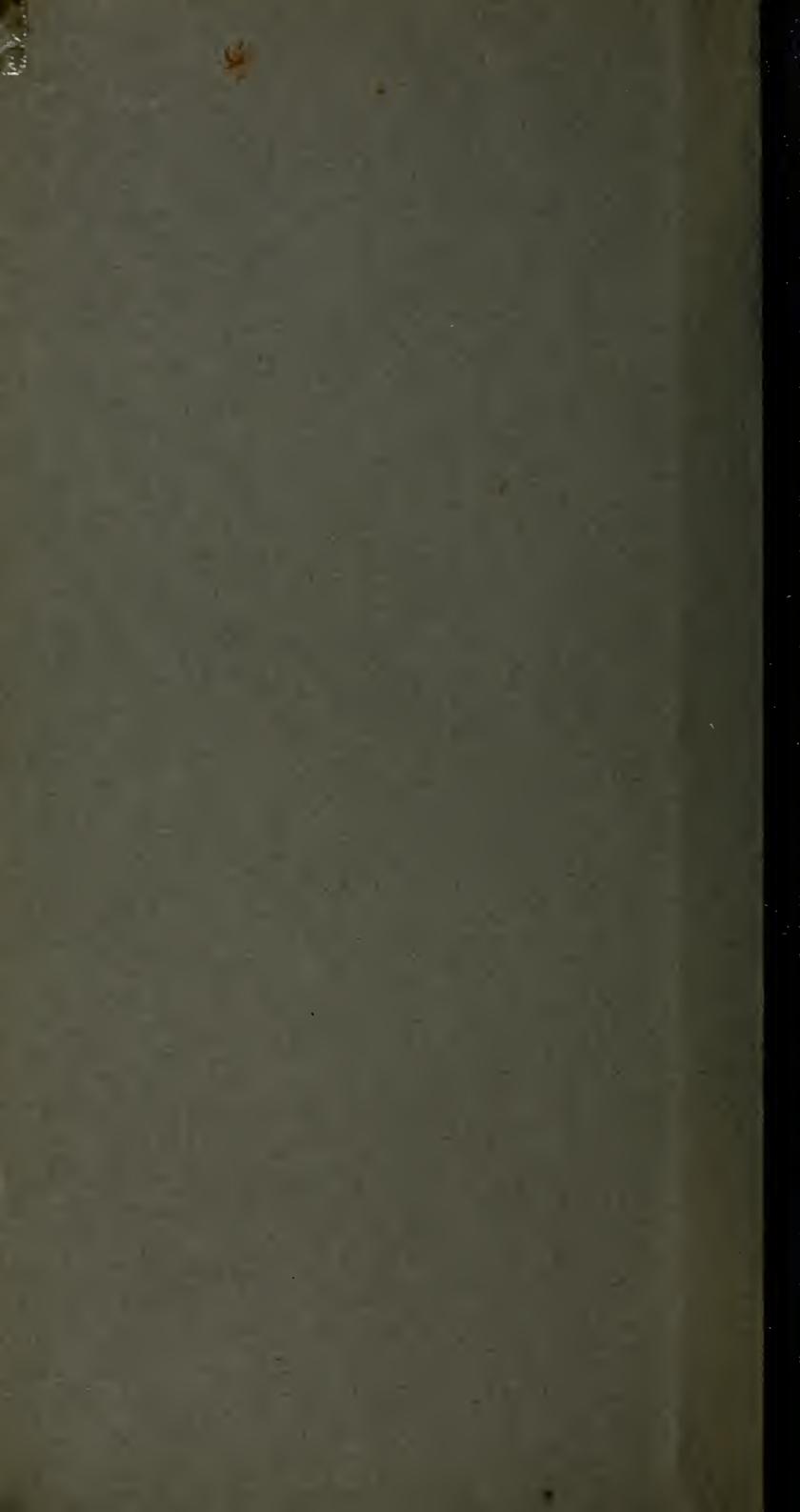
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WAR DIARY

<u>OF</u>

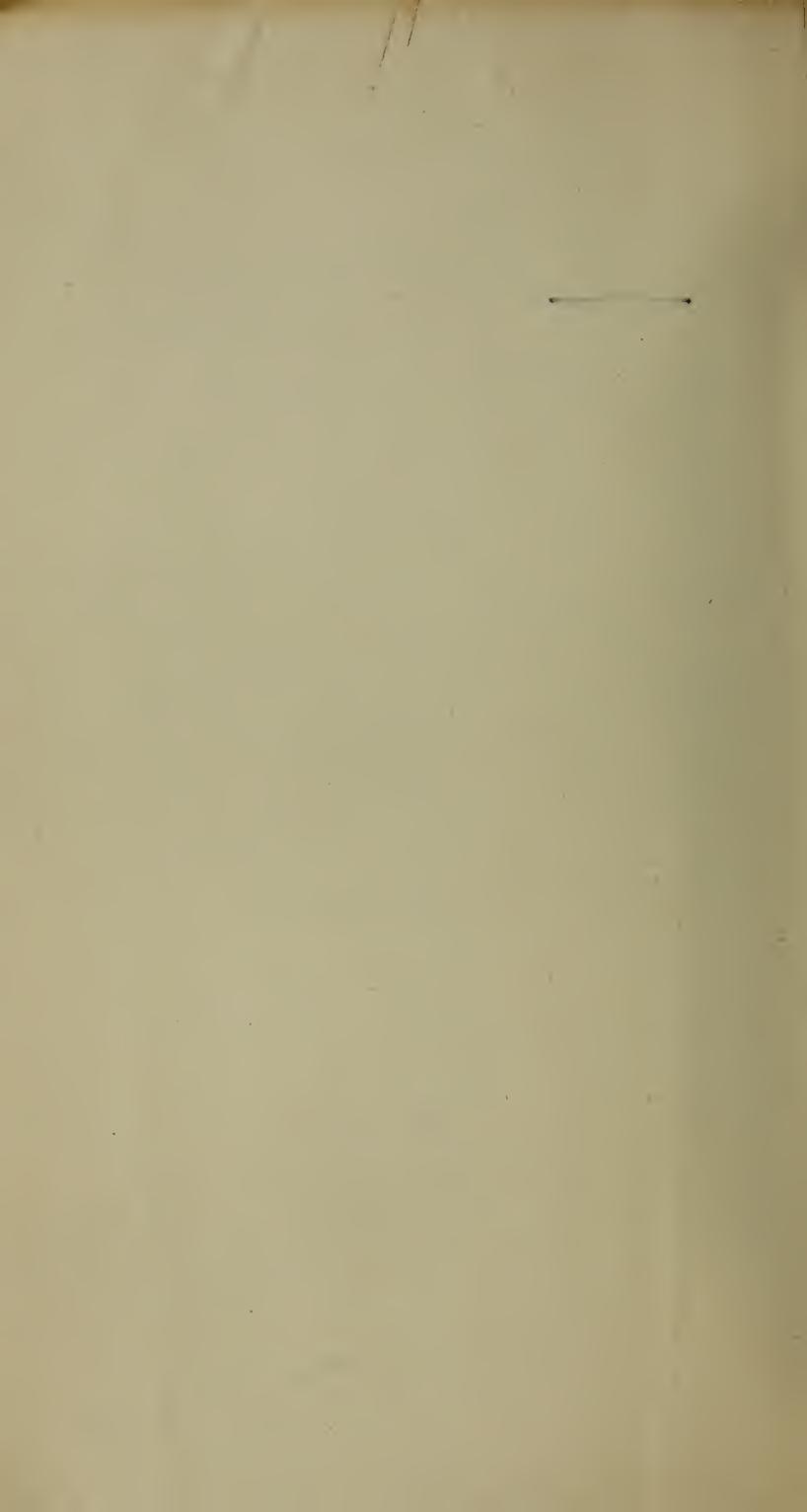
CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

8 DECEMBER, 1941 - 30 JUNE, 1942.

PG Numbers 30920 - 30925



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WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

8 - 31 DECEMBER, 1941

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Tar Diary

Captain U-boats Italy

The War Diary of Captain U-boats Italy contains in the daily entries events from 0800 on the current day until 0800 the following day.

Contents

- I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares. If positions are accurate i.e. based on reports etc., they are underlined.
 - b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800.

II. Air reconnaissance:

- a) Western Mediterranean.
- b) Eastern Mediterranean.
 The boundary is the line from Cape Bon to Sicily.

III. Reports on the enemy:

- a) By U-boats.
- b) By air reconnaissance.
- c) By radio intercept service.
- d) By G.I.S. stations.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

- a) Definite and limited operations.
- b) General operations.
- V. a) Successes.
 - b) Losses.

VI. General situation:

- a) Operations.
- b) Bases etc.

Officer.

of Flag Officer, German Naval Command Italy

Captain U-boats - Lt. Cdr. Oehrn

- A. Division of Command

 1) A "Captain U-boats" has been appointed to the Staff of Flag Officer, German Naval Command Italy, to be known officially as "Captain U-boats Italy". In his personnel capacity he is to be incorporated in the Staff of the Flag
 - 2) In his capacity as commander of the U-boat flotillas, Captain U-boats Italy is subordinate a) to Flag Officer German Naval Command Italy as regards operations
 - b) to C-in-C. U-boats as regards administration.
 - 3) The following flotillas are under command of Captain U-boats Italy:
 a) The 23rd U-boat Flotilla at Salamis
 - b) The 29th U-boat Flotilla at Spezia.
 - 4) Captain U-boats Italy is vested with disciplinary authority in accordance with para.22 of the Naval Disciplinary Penal Order.
- B. Assignments
 Captain U-boats Italy will command the U-boats under him operationally in accordance with the directions and orders of the Flag Officer German Naval Command and administratively in accordance with orders from C-in-C. U-boats.

 Note: The war diary of the first weeks contains only the most important plans and these only in code words. There was no time for its exact compilation.
- C. Position at the beginning of December

 1) Eastern Mediterranean

 Operational command of the boats operating there through the Maval Command Italy. Tactical command through S.O. 23rd U-boat Flotilla Salamis Lt. Frauenheim.
 - 2) Western Mediterranean
 Operational and tactical command through C-in-C.
 U-boats, based in Western France.
 - 3) Intentions: to transfer command of the whole Hediterranean to Naval Command Italy as soon as possible. Hence the appointment of a Captain U-boats to the staff of German Naval Command Italy; also to create a U-boat base in the Testern Mediterranean. Spezia is in process of construction for this purpose.

(Sd.) Oehrn.

8 December 1941

1200. Assumption of Command by German Naval Command Italy.

A. <u>Disposition of U-boats:</u> In operational areas:

a) Eastern Mediterranean

U431 U565 U562 U557

b) Western Mediterranean U372 U453

c) Proceeding to Eastern Mediterranean
'U208
'U568
'U374
'U5'73
'U652

- d) Proceeding to Western Mediterranean U375
- e) Returning to Spezia
 U81
 U205
- f) For special operation with Admiral Aegean
 U371 (For the interception of Russian
 tankers)

Salamis - U75 U79 U97 U331 U559 Spezia - None

h) Expected from the Atlantic in the near future
U74
U77
U569
U432

B. Command

- a) Eastern Mediterranean
 Tactical command remains with S.O. 23rd U-boat
 Flotilla, as the communications organization
 necessary for a direct command of the Eastern
 Mediterranean from Rome is still in process of
 construction.
- b) Western Mediterranean
 Direct tactical command from Rome assisted by
 the large radio stations of C-in-C. U-boats in
 Western France.

- c) Fosition at bases
 Salamis dockyard capacity for 4 boats
 simultaneously.
 Spezia dockyard capacity for 4 6 boats
 simultaneously.
 Taking as a basis the proportion of 1 boat at
 sea to 1 boat in port, at present a total of
 16 20 boats can be based in Mediterranean
 bases.
- d) Plans for further operations
 In accordance with Naval High Command/Naval
 Var Staff 1st Division and 2042/41 Most Secret/
 S.O.s only of 29 November permanent occupation
 of the attack areas will be as follows:
 10 Boats in Eastern Mediterranean
 15 Boats east and west of Gibraltar
 in a ratio of 8 to 7, that is, there will
 always be 18 U-boats operating in the
 Mediterranean.
- e) As in the present circumstances the numerical strength of German U-boats operating in the Mediterranean depends mainly on the position at the bases, special attention must be paid to the preparation of more dockyard facilities. For this purpose a series of conferences has taken place between the representatives of the German Naval Command, Naval War Staff (U-boats) and Supermarina and their findings are partly incorporated in the memoranda attached, as appendices, Appendix 1. In setting up the base at Spezia, differences arose between the German Construction Commission (Inspectorate) and the Italian offices. After examining the causes, Flag Officer, German Naval Command, taking into consideration the special conditions, established the regulation attached in Appendix 2, to which the Italian Navy agreed. Germany was forced to oppose the intention of the Italian Navy, to transfer those of their U-boats which are still in the Atlantic (Base Bordeaux) to the Mediterranean, as this would have further aggravated the already difficult dockyard situation. The reasons are set out in detail in Appendix 3.
- f) Operational areas
 The areas arranged with the Italian Navy as operational areas for German U-boats are:-

a) Eastern Mediterranean: area between meridians 23° 30' E. and 31° E. south of 33° N.

b) Western Mediterranean: area west of 3° W.

g) General situation Of primary importance is the protection of our supplies for North Africa, which will be taken in single steamers and small convoys through the area between 13° and 23° E,

principally between 18° and 22°. Our own situation in North Africa is tense because of difficulties of supply. A very small amount of supplies is taken to Bardia in Italian transport U-boats. In the central Mediterranean too, the British have air superiority. The enemy, by virtue of great activity has largely succeeded in commanding the position at sea. They have bases at Alexandria and Malta. Enemy traffic through the Mediterranean in an wast-west direction still continues, even if not to any great extent. It is probably concerned exclusively with military supplies. In the Eastern Mediterranean, the greater part of the supplies for the enemy African front still go by sea. In this traffic mostly small to very small ships and vessels operate.

- h) Anti-submarine measures
 Anti-submarine activity is permitted at all
 times in the Italian coastal waters and the
 seas between the islands and the mainland,
 unless there is specific restriction
 announced.
- i) German U-boat operations are concentrated against enemy supply traffic from Alexandria to the enemy bases on the African coast, especially Tobruk. The Italian U-boats operate outside the German operational areas, principally in the Crete-North Africa area, east of Malta and west of Sardinia. Joint planning of U-boat operations is intended later. In this connection it is intended to preserve a definite local separation between German and Italian U-boats, yet to make mutual assistance possible by suitable dislocation.

8 - 11 December

For the time being our U-boats are being concentrated off Tobruk; owing to the development of the situation in North Africa, attacks on enemy supplies destined for this place seem to be of particular importance.

Miscellaneous

- 1) We must presume that U95 and U208 have been lost while proceeding from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean. Clues as to the causes are present only in the numerous U-boat reports and anti-U-boat activity from the Gibraltar region. Exact details have not been received.
- 2) U81 and U205 put in to Spezia.
 U374 and U375 arrived in the area east of
 Gibraltar from the Atlantic.
 U374 reported that she sank two patrol
 vessels while on passage through the Straits.

(Sd.) Oehrn.

12 - 14 December

Our available U-bosts have been set in close formation on the enemy inward and outward routes from Alexandria which are known to us from captured documents, in order to divert attention from the large flow of supplies from Italy to North Africa. The order of the German Naval Command Italy to Captain U-boats on this matter and the execution orders from Captain U-boats are attached in Appendix 4 (1 and 2). For this purpose Captain U-boats temporarily assumes tactical command in the Eastern Mediterranean also. The difficulties of transmitting orders to the boats (relaying all radio messages from the service group Rome-Athens to the U-boat service Eastern Mediterranean and vice versa) have been overcome for the duration of this operation by a special decree, which can however be valid only for a short time. With reference to swift action on reconnaissance reports from the German Air Force, which has up to now been an important reason for tactical command being left with the 23rd U-boat Flotilla, a new regulation will be introduced, so that all aircraft reports on the enemy, which are received on various waves are immediately repeated by a central station on a central wave. This wave will be monitored in Rome. The demand seems to have been met in this way.

Course of the operation

- 1) In a definite order of succession, the boats have been ordered to make deep offensive sweeps on one night, and then to retire to a considerable distance on the next to carry out a more thorough re-charging of batteries etc.
- 2) U431 in square CP on 13 December, torpedoed a tanker estimated to be of 8000 tons as it was putting out. She reported all torpedoes expended, and was ordered to direct U557 to the tanker and then commence return passage. U557 reached the ship, which in the meantime had been taken under escort by 4 destroyers, but scored no hit, and was forced to retire. Since U431 has expended all torpedoes and is returning, the boats are being re-distributed. Meanwhile the running of supplies has been postponed for several days.
- 3) At midday on 14 December a formation of enemy cruisers, course set for Alexandria, was sighted by the German Air Force. Later the returning U431 also sighted it.
 At 2359, U557, 40 miles westnorthwest of Alexandria, almost exactly on the expected inward route, scored three hits on an enemy cruiser. The ship sank in 2 minutes. Commander of U557 presumed it was an "Aurora" class cruiser. The boats have been ordered to

separate and to take up their positions again on the evening of 16 December. It is intended to repeat the convoy operation on this date.

Miscellaneous

U374 and U453 have commenced the return passage from the Western Mediterranean, U557 from the Eastern Mediterranean. U453 on 13 December in the Cape de Gata area sank the Spanish steamer "Badalona".

For exact details see Appendix 5.

(Sd.) Ochrn.

15 - 19 December

Tobruk area.

Operations The running of the large supply transports to North Africa, postponed on 13 December, will take place from 16 December onwards. As expected, the majority of the enemy's battleships have put to sea. The U-boats are occupying their attack areas directly off Alexandria. As a new boat from the Atlantic, U568 joined this group and was detailed to the Western route to strengthen the U-boat disposition there. U565 commenced the return passage because of lack of fuel. So while only one boat (U652) occupied the Northern route, there were 3 boats on the Western route. This concentration is not to be altered as we have the impression that the Western route is much more frequently used. On the forenoon of 18 December the German Air Force sighted a warship formation on a southeasterly course. At 1640 the returning U565 observed it. At 2245 U371 scored 3 hits on a cruiser ("Leander" class) putting in to port. According to radio intercept service reports, the destruction of the cruisor can be accepted as certain. U559 observed the rest of the formation putting in to port. The boats have been ordered to separate to the west. The tactical command has been restored to S.O. 23rd U-boat Flotilla. He is ordered to

Miscellaneous
U557, returning on the night of 16/7 December,
was rammed west of Crete by the Italian torpedoboat "Orione", which was on its way from Suda
to Africa with a fuel transport. The boat sank
immediately. No survivors were picked up. An
examination of the facts showed that it was an
accident. As a result, the regulation of traffic
and anti-submarine activity in the Aegean was
looked into. The attitude of Naval Command
Italy is contained in a teleprint message
reproduced in Appendix 6.

send the boats to concentrate on the Sollum-

(Sd.) Oehrn.

20 - 24 December

Operations
1) From air reconnaissance reports received, it appears that there is a strikingly large number of warships and merchant ships at Malta. In view of the strained situation of the Africa Corps on the main front, an enemy landing on the unprotected coast of the Syrtis seemed within the bounds of possibility. To break up an operation of this nature, Captain U-boats was ordered to set two Ú-boats in the sea area off Malta. U-boats U74 and U77 which arrived in Messina from the Atlantic were intended for this measure. The operational order is attached in Appendix 7. Further photographic reconnaissance showed that the shipping in Malta was not so numerous as at first believed. It was therefore decided to place only one boat there; apart from making use of opportunities to attack, it seems important that a reconnaissance of this area should be made by a U-boat with a view to later operations, which may be necessary on a larger scale. While U74 was detailed for this duty, U77 was stationed off Benghazi, which was occupied by the enemy on 24 December.

2) On 21 December, east of Gibraltar, U573
severely damaged a large transport with
escort (passenger steamer of over 80°C0 GRT)
with two torpedoes. Bows torn off, probably
sunk. On the night of 23/24 December in
C09121, U559 sighted a convoy, easterly
course. She sank one steamer belonging to it
and damaged another.
U562 reported a probable hit.
U568 sank a single-funnel destroyer in
C06878 on 24 December.

Miscellaneous
U75, U79 and U97 put out from Salamis.
U97 relieved U652, engaged on a special
operation for Admiral Aegean.
U83, U133 and U577 arrived in the Mediterranean
from the Atlantic.
U573 and U562 are returning. Because of overcrowding at Spezia, they are intended as the
first boats for Spezia.

(Sd.) Oehrn.

25 - 27 December

After 2 days in the area east of Malta, U74 returned to Messina for muffler valve repairs. She has made no special observations. U77 reported on 27 December, that she had met no traffic off Benghazi nor seen any ships in the harbor. Since the U-boats have been operating independently, in rather large attack areas since 20 December, a tightened operational disposition is intended shortly. While air reconnaissance sighted enemy transport and warships almost daily in the coastal region off the African coast, the U-boats had much less success in contacting the enemy. We must try to see if more frequent contact with the enemy can be secured by tightening up groups and changing the local points of concentration more often. On 26 December according to radio intercept service an enemy unit was torpedoed north of Tobruk. There are no other details in evidence.

(Sd.) Oehrn.

27 - 31 December

- Operations
 1) On the evening of 26 December, U652 contacted a convoy, northeasterly course. She expended all her torpedoes without scoring any hits, was forced back, lost contact and commenced the return passage. Soon afterwards U75 sighted the same convoy, reported its composition as 1 steamer, 2 destroyers and 1 patrol vessel, course 1100, speed 8-9 knots, shadowed it till midnight. No further reports received. U374 requested direction finding signals after midnight.
- 2) The boats were then drawn up in a patrol line and were later ordered to proceed eastwards, covering a distance of 100 miles per day. The intention is to comb the sea area off the African coast, so as to reach the vicinity of Alexandria about 1 January. At this time it is intended to run another rather large transport. If possible the boats will carry out a short operation in 2 groups before then, on the Alexandria-Port Said and Alexandria-Tobruk coastal route.
- 3) U83 (Kraus) reported on 28 December that she had been subjected to a very severe depth-charge pursuit in C05676 and had to return because of damage. This is the first severe pursuit to be experienced by a German U-boat in the Mediterranean.

- 4) On 28 December in C06962 air reconnaissance sighted a convoy, course 120°. Continuous reconnaissance of this convoy was requested and the 8 eastern boats in the vicinity were set on it.

 Apart from a few gaps, air reconnaissance raintained contact. At 1845, U559 made contact and shadowed until midnight. Reported at 0034; Forced to submerge, all torpedoes expended, am returning. Result: '1 steamer damaged.
- 5) On 29 December on the basis of various sighting reports from the German Air Force which did not tally individually, but which gave general proof of the presence of rather strong warship formations off the North African coast west of the U-boat positions, the U-boats proceeding eastwards were directed to a patrol line west of Alexandria, to intercept these formations on their return.

 U77 (Schonder), still west of the patrol line, contacted an eastbound convoy, but was forced back by night fighters. No other boats reached it, although the convoy passed the patrol-line position.
- 6) On 31 December the 7 boats in the east were moved close in to Alexandria. Five boats were concentrated on the western route, 2 boats on the northern route.

Miscellaneous
U562 - 29 December - Put in to Pola.
U573 - 30 December - Put in to Pola.
U83 - 30 December - Put in to Salamis.

Total of successes from 8 - 31 December See Appendix 8.

(Sd.) Oehrn.

Appendix 1/I

Conference

on U-boat Bases in Italy

5 December 1941

A. Position

- 1) The German intention is to keep 18 U-boats simultaneously in positions in the operational areas of the Western and Eastern Mediterranean (about 8 boats east of Gibraltar and 10 boats in the Eastern Mediterranean).

 That means that a total of at least 36 German U-boats must be brought to the Mediterranean (presuming that the proportion of boats at sea to the boats in port is roughly 1 to 1 a question which depends mainly on the capacity of the dockyards). Of these about 18 boats would be in the base dockyards at the same time.
- 2) At present the following bases are available to German U-boats:
 Salamis, which can accommodate, at the most, 4 boats simultaneously.
 Spezia, which can accommodate, at the most, 6 boats simultaneously.
 In all, 10 boats.
 Therefore we still lack bases i.e. dockyard facilities for 8 boats.

B. Requirements

- 1) All boats operating in the Mediterranean must be based in Mediterranean ports.
- 2) Outside Italy the only port under consideration is Salamis. At present the maximum capacity is 4 boats at a time.
- 3) It is therefore necessary to find repair facilities in Italy for a total of 8 boats at a time.

C. German Navy Requirements

- 1) Because of personnel and other difficulties, it is necessary to limit the number of bases to a few and make these more efficient. One more base apart from Spezia would answer this purpose. An efficient dockyard in the Adriatic as for instance Monfalcone-would be preferred. Under certain circumstances the possibility at Genoa should be examined, though this would have one disadvantage for the eastern boats the long return passage through the Strait of Messina.
- 2) The disadvantage of Brindisi and Naples is their vulnerability to air attack and the consequent reduction in output and the danger to boats and crews.

- 3) It is possible that the request to keep 18 boats simultaneously in the operational areas will necessitate the transfer of more than 36 boats in all to the Mediterranean. This will depend principally on the speed with which the boats in the Mediterranean ports can be repaired for renewal of offensive operations. We must expect that the repair of German boats in Italian dockyards, where the boats are not yet known will take rather longer than would be the case in home bases. It therefore seems both advisable and necessary at the outset to provide a certain reserve of docking facilities. This reserve should be capable of accormodating about 4 boats. It is therefore necessary to find dockyard facilities for a total of 12 more boats simultaneously.
- D. The following should be clarified:
 - 1) whether, and if so, how quickly and to what extent, output and capacity at Spezia can be stepped-up.
 - 2) which other dockyards can be placed at our disposal by the Italian Navy, if Spezia has not been completed and if Naples and Brindisi are, for one reason or another, out of the question.

Appendix 1/II

Conference on U-boat bases in Italy

- A. The inspection of Brindisi and Naples by the German commission produced the following results:
 - 1) As a U-boat base, Brindisi at present is suitable for about 1 or 2 boats. The necessary provisions would have to be made regarding personnel; at present they are not in order. With reference to the repairing and care of the boats, the facilities available at the moment are very slight.

 Summing-up:
 We have formed the impression that this base

We have formed the impression that this base is out of the question as a garrison for the near future and that its capacity will always be limited.

- 2) Naples is ready for occupation by 4 U-boats immediately, both as regards dockyard and accommodation. A greater number could only be accommodated at present at the risk of longer repair periods for the other boats. The docking conditions are difficult whenever the number of boats in dock at the same time exceeds two. The storing and care of electrical torpedoes is not possible at present and cannot be expected for 4-5 weeks. Difficulties of transport arise in the matter of supplies which will have to be brought from Germany. The vulnerability of this place to air attacks has been noticed.
- B. The German Commission has formed the impression that a final solution to the problem of bases for the German U-boats operating in the Mediterranean is not to be found by using these two bases; rather that in order to maintain the operational readiness of the maximum number of German boats in the Mediterranean, we must find out whether the Royal Italian Navy has other bases available, which it would be willing to place at the disposal of the German U-boat Arm.
- C. The German Naval Command has requested the Royal Italian Navy to examine this question more closely and has stressed the importance attached to a speedy solution of the question since the transfer of German U-boats has already started.

 As far as can be seen at present, within the next 14 days dock facilities will be required in Italy for a total of 6 German U-boats. Within the next 4 weeks the number will be increased by a further six boats. Of course alterations in the actual development or as a result of unforeseen events are still possible.

- D. 1) As a temporary solution, in case no other solution can be found quickly enough, it is proposed to consider Naples for first repairs on 4 boats.

 We must expect the first boats to arrive from 18 December onwards.
 - 2) As both Spezia and Naples might not be sufficient, even in a few weeks, a third base must be found as soon as possible, at least for temporary reception of German U-boats.

 For this purpose Monfalcone, Pola or Genoa have been chosen provisionally.

 It is proposed to send the German Commission there immediately to examine the possibilities. The German Naval Command still considers that the final solution lies in procuring the fewest possible bases with increased capacity; best of all just one base Spezia for example.

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Appendix 1/III

Survey of situation at bases by

Captain U-boats

December 1941

German Naval Command Italy Most Secret 7941/41.

- 1) Present dockyard situation: Accommodation at Salamis for 4 boats (Naval War Staff U-boat Division presumes this will be raised to 6 boats by the end of the month). Spezia - 6 boats.
- 2) Examination of Brindisi showed that it is out of the question. Naples is ready for 4 boats from the point of view of dockyard and accommodation. Any increase on that number would only be at the risk of longer repair times for all. Docking conditions are difficult if more than two boats are in dock at the same time. Storing and maintenance of electric torpedoes not possible for 4-5 weeks. Danger from air attack roughly the same as Kiel. Passive air defense elementary. To be considered only as a last resort, and a temporary one at that. The Commission (Kratzenberg) travels to-day from Rome to Spezia, Monfalcone and Pola. These ports have not been placed at our disposal officially as yet, but probably will be.
- 3) Up to date a total of 18 dockyard berths in Italy have been requested; 12 are therefore still lacking. However, it would be possible to base 8 boats on Salamis and 12 on Spezia. We therefore still require bases for 16 boats, that is, 8 dockyard berths. We plan to have 4 berths in reserve. We have requested 6 more berths, apart from the 6 available at Spezia to be ready within a limit of 14 days in the most suitable place, 6 more by 9 January.
- 4) Investigations to date show that early i.e. almost immediate readiness is possible in the new construction dockyard at Spezia. 2 berths in the O.T.O. (Italian dockyard). In Pola 3, at the most 4 berths, Situation at Monfalcone not very clear. In an emergency, berths for 4 boats in Naples. Taranto not examined.
- 5) The Commission will also examine:
 - a) how greatly individual capacities can be increased; also,

 - increased; also,
 b) if new constructions can be undertaken; c) if all other work can be suspended or partly suspended.
- 6) The Italians know that the demands expressed in para.5 may have to be enforced.

- 7) I have the impression that the capacity of Italian dockyards is less than the numerical strength of their U-boat arm suggests. The reason is they have covered less mileage than our boats and therefore require fewer repairs. Facilities are in fact limited.
- 8) The acquisition of one or two good bases is still the ultimate aim. (Spezia and, if possible, Monfalcone, Pola). As a temporary emergency solution another base can be considered. If at all possible this will be avoided.

Appendix 1/IV

Memorandum on the conference on 18 December 1941. Subject - the provision of bases for German U-boats in the Mediterranean

- 1) It is agreed that Brindisi is out of the question as a base for German U-boats.
- 2) Naples is the same, because until further notice it is entirely given over to Italian U-boats.
- a) Naval dockyard. Immediate facility for repairs to 5 U-boats and for a 6th boat if 110 Italian
 - b) O.T.O. (Italian dockyard) Muggiano. Immediate facility for repairs to 1 U-boat. The question of how Diesel engine overhauls are to be executed still remains to be solved.

 With the conscription of 350 Italian workers, 3 more boats can be repaired.

specialized workers can be supplied immediately.

Ultimate aim for Spezia
Naval dockyard: 8 U-boats
O.T.O. (Italian dockyard): 4 U-boats.
Request that the repair capacity be increased from 6 to 8 U-boats in the naval dockyard at the earliest possible moment.

- 4) Pola a) Scolio
 - a) Scolio Olivio dockyard. Immediate repair capacity for 2 U-boats; after installation of the machine tools requested from Germany, and the conscription of 100 necessary specialized workers, a total of 6 boats, relying on the help of the Cantiero Riuniti dell' Adriatico, Monfalcone.
 - b) Accommodation
 It will be necessary to clear the U-boat
 barracks at the Scolio Olivio dockyard and
 provide any additional accommodation required
 in Brioni.
 - 5) It is proposed to discuss the following matters with the Italian Navy:
 - a) Delivery of supplies, for example, temporary loans on the part of the Italian Navy, to be repaid later.
 - b) Mutual settlement.
 - c) Erection of the necessary U-boat workshops.
 - d) Provision of storage space and spare parts etc. and provisions. Mutual agreement between the Royal Italian Navy and the German Naval Command Italy is to be reached with reference to the preliminary conferences which have already taken place locally, and the necessary measures are to be introduced and executed as soon as possible.

Appendix 1/V

Teleprint message to: Naval War Staff 1st Division, Naval War Staff (U-boats), C-in-C. U-boats.

Subject: U-boat bases in the Mediterranean

- 1) As a result of the tours of inspection of the Italian U-boat bases by representatives of the Italian Navy (Capt. Kratzenberg), and with the conclusion of the basic discussions with the Italian Navy in Rome, German Naval Command Italy expects the following dockyard facilities for German U-boats in Italy.
 - A) Immediate dockyard capacity in 1) Spezia - accommodation for 6. U-boats
 - 2) Pola accommodation for 2 U-boats 3) Salamis - accommodation for 5 U-boats in all 13 U-boats.
 - B) On 15 January
 - 1) Spezia 7 U-boats
 2) Pola 2 U-boats

 - 3) Salamis 6 U-Boats in all 15 U-boats.
 - C) End of February
 - 1) Spezia 10 U-boats
 - 2) Pola 4 U-boats
 - 3) Salamis 6 U-boats in all 20 U-boats.

The above set terms and requirements can be complied with, if the Italian Navy makes farreaching concessions, but these would inflict a serious handicap, and, of necessity, influence the readiness of other units. Taking as a basis a ratio of one to one of U-boats at sea to U-boats in bases, the figures given mean that at present a total of 26 U-boats in the Mediterranean cannot be exceeded. It could be raised:

to 30 boats by 15 January and to 40 boats by the end of February.

> Naval Command Italy Most Secret Serial No.8193/41

Appendix 2/I

Memorandum on Conference on 2 December 1941

Subject: Organization of the U-boat base at Spezia

The Royal Italian Navy requests that the following conditions be fulfilled with reference to the organization of the U-boat base at Spezia:

- 1) Command of the dockyard and responsibility in the execution of the work to remain unconditionally the affair of the Royal Italian Navy. (Exceptions will be made if desired, for torpedo, fire control and gunnery workshops).
- 2) The German construction commission vis-a-vis the Italian authorities has a purely advisory function on repairs to German boats and superintendence of the execution of work and preserving of German construction regulations.
- 3) For the Italian dockyard command the main German authority to be the U-boat flotilla.
- 4) The above-mentioned technical staff to be merely a temporary arrangement. Its - - will depend on the technical possibilities.
- 5) a) The interpreters necessary for the operating of the dockyard must be of service rank. Their appointment will ensue as far as possible through the Royal Italian Navy. The number necessary for Spezia will be provided by the Navy.
 - b) There are no objections to the employment of interpreters supplied by Germany, if they possess service rank and have been examined by German officers as to their roliability.

Appendix 2/II

9 December 1941.

and the second of the

To the Navy Staff of Royal Italian Navy, for Ammiraglio di Divisione Sansonetti

When the German Naval Command Italy learned that misunderstandings had arisen between the construction commission sent to Spezia from Germany and the dockyard authorities of the Royal Italian Navy, all possible steps were taken to prevent these difficulties continuing,

It seems to me that in future mutual relations should be governed by the following principles. It is requested that they should be examined and if possible sanction given:

- 1) The repair of the German U-boats intended for docking at Spezia is vital to the common war aim, and should be executed at the greatest possible speed, subject to the working conditions on board. Repair projects for other units of the Royal Italian Navy in Spezia should not delay the duration of U-boat repairs.
- 2) The responsibility for the execution of the work in accordance with para.l falls entirely on the Royal Italian Navy (exceptions possible by mutual agreement for torpedo, fire-control and gunnery workshops). That obviously means complete independence for the Italian dockyard authorities and their command.
- 3) For the Italian dockyard command the main German authority to be the U-boat flotilla. The S.O. of the flotilla will be, in German opinion, the personality who, in accordance with the directions of German Naval Command Italy, will represent the practical embodiment of mutual relations in the terms of the above principles. He will commence duty on 10 December 1941.
- 4) A technical liaison staff is assigned to the S.O. of the flotilla. This is to ensure that the repairs requested by the flotilla correspond with the work of execution in the dockyard. The task of the technical liaison staff is limited to advice on repairs to German boats and superintendence of the execution of work and preserving of German construction regulations, It may also aid in construction of certain work, which cannot be independently undertaken by the Italian dockyard because of its type.
- 5) The above-mentioned technical staff is merely a temporary arrangement. It will be reduced according to the amount of technical requirements.
- 6) The question of the interpreters is to be determined by the flotilla S.O. in agreement with the local Italian authorities.

It is requested that the authorities under your command in Spezia, particularly those in the dockyard, be given detailed knowledge of the above

ruling, should you be in agreement.

After doing everything possible to clear up the cause of the difficulties which arose and to arrange matters to comply with the desires of the Royal Italian Navy, I would ask the Royal Italian Navy and its offices in Spezia to forget all the differences which arose, and to go on to further cooperation, with the realization of the great task lying ahead of us, in the same spirit of friendly unity, which has distinguished the Royal Italian Navy and all its departments in our common activity.

I shall go to Spezia at the first available opportunity in order to visit your offices and to

make contact with them.

(Sd.) Weichold.

Appendix 3/I

13 December 1941

To the Naval Staff of the Royal Italian Navy, for Capitano di Fregata Foscari.

for information: Naval High Command/Naval Var
Staff, 1st Division (Operations)
Subject: Transfer of Italian U-boats from the
Atlantic to the Mediterranean.

The German Navy takes the following view of the Royal Italian Navy's plan to transfer some of the Italian U-boats still in the Atlantic back to the Mediterranean,

- 1) The present difficulties in the provision of a sufficient number of repair depots for the German U-boats now here and those arriving shortly, make it necessary to examine each further increase in numbers to discover whether sufficient repair facilities exist for these boats. In the interest of the common war aim, it must be ensured that no boats lie in repair ports waiting to be repaired.
- 2) As far as can be seen, the reception capacity of the Italian U-boat dockyards, for the time being, is already fully exhausted. The transfer of more boats would only slow down the work of preparing the other boats for operations, i.e. in practice it means that the number of boats operating against the enemy would not be raised, or only very slightly, as a result.
- 3) In this connection the German Navy points out that, with such a great number of German boats going to the Mediterranean, your decision affects them very seriously, since as a result, the war in the Atlantic would have to be largely suspended. The war in the Atlantic is, however, really the task of the German U-boat arm. Therefore the German Navy considers it necessary to resume this action as soon as possible with all its might. To be able to return as soon as possible to this theater of war with stronger forces, the Navy considers it necessary to do everything possible to prevent having to raise the number of boats operating in the Mediterranean, so that the boats do not lie in the repair ports, or waiting for repairs, longer than is absolutely necessary.
- 4) In view of the dockyard facilities available at present, the Navy requests that the immediate transfer of Italian U-boats from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean be suspended for the time being. Apart from the above-mentioned reasons, the Navy believes that if these boats are left in the Atlantic where they can operate better on account of their size, they can be of great value in the prosecution of the war, particularly at this time when there are only a few German boats in the Atlantic.

Appendix 3/II

Teleprint message to Naval War Staff 1st Division, C-ln-C. U-boats dated 10 December 1941.

German Naval Command Italy Most Secret 7900/41.

Subject: Transfer of Italian U-boats.

- 1) The berthing and output capacity of the Italian U-boat dockyards has been, as far as can be seen at present, exhausted by the requirements of the German boats now in the Mediterranean and those due to arrive. Provision of the dockyard capacity necessary for German boats has already caused difficulties. The transfer of Italian U-boats from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean would mean a decrease in the facilities available for German boats.
- 2) The employment of these Italian U-boats in the Mediterranean for transport purposes is of less importance at present considering the necessity of finding an adequate number of efficient bases for German U-boats, as they are limited from the operational point of view. Furthermore, in the interests of the joint war effort, any possible employment of these boats for normal operations would have to be subordinate to that of the German boats. Their transfer would endanger the speedy return of German U-boats to operations.
- 3) The-German Naval Command requests therefore that in view of these circumstances the matter should be examined and a new decision made. This decision should arrive here within five days at the latest, as Italian preparations have already started.
- 4) Captain Kratzenberg's comments follow to-day in confirmation of Para.1.

Appendix 4/I

11 December 1941.

Most Immediate radio message:
Service group Rome-Athens.
- Most Secret - Cypher "M".

To S.O. 23rd U-boat Flotilla and for transmission to U-boats:

Order No.1.

- 1) Our large-scale transport will put out for Africa on 13 December, protected by the main force of the Italian fleet.
- 2) Enemy will probably take strong measures to prevent the supplies getting through.
- 3) German U-boats are to attack the enemy from position VP 7522 as they put out from port. Go close up. Precise orders will follow.
- 4) Captain U-boats, Rome will be in tactical command of the operation.

Order No.2.

The enemy outward routes are given in relation to point "Z", the position of which is 31° 11.6' North, 29° 45.3' East.

- 1) Testern route:
 From point "Z" bearing 293°, 9½ miles, total breadth approximately 1.3 miles, then bearing 280°, total breadth approximately 2.1 miles.
- 2) Northern route:
 From point "Z", bearing 327° true, 1.2 miles away, direction 18°, 7½ miles. Total breadth approximately 1.2 miles. Then bearing 330° true, total breadth approximately 2.2 miles.
- 3) There are probably buoys at the following points:
 Red light buoy with green flash in 31° 10.5' N,
 29° 43.7' E.
 Red light buoy with red flash in 31° 13.1' N,
 29° 47.2' E.
 We cannot tell if they will be functioning.
 North buoy 31° 19.7' N, 29° 46.3' E.
 West buoy 31° 12.7' N, 29° 33.7' E.
 Neither buoy is illuminated.

Most immediate radio message:

Service group Rome-Athens.

- Secret -

Order No.3.

The attack areas east of 29° L and south of 32°N to be occupied as follows;

1) the sector 270° to 300° from point "Z",
U359 north of the midway line on the western
route.
U431 south of it.

- 2) the sector 310° to 350° from the north buoy: U565 east of the midway line on the northern route, U562 west of it.
- 3) Area between the sectors mentioned U557. Concentration by day in the vicinity of the western sector.

Order No.4.

- 1) Area within a radius of 10 miles around the lighthouse Faro Alto di Mare is not used for navigation because of mines and hydrophone screens.
- 2) Keep a look-out for Italian minefields as detailed on enclosed charts. Expect drift of 3 miles.
- 3) No other minefields are known to exist, and are not to be expected according to available information.

Order No.5.

- 1) It is absolutely necessary to take up positions unobserved. Also to remain unobserved.
- 2) East of 29° E, freedom to attack only warships from cruisers upwards and outward bound merchant ships over 4000 tons. Homeward bound ships only to be attacked if very valuable targets. Large destroyers only if definite hit is assured.
- 3) Do not break radio silence except in the event of warship formations or fairly large convoys or if established with certainty that the enemy is using a new outward route.

 Withdraw to transmit in other cases.

Captain U-Boats Italy.

Appendix 4/II

German Naval Command Rome, 12 December 1941.
Italy

Serial No. Most Secret/S.O.s only 445/41

By hand of officer only.

To: Captain U-boats Italy, for information:

Naval High Command
- Naval War Staff C-in-C. South.

Operational Order No. 3

U-boat operations in the African campaign

1) The Royal Italian Navy intends,

- a) To run 2 corvoys with supply cargo from Italy to Tripoli and Benghazi. The Italian fleet will be operating to protect them. German and Italian air forces will give support.
- b) Operation commences on "X"-day. The convoys will probably put in to the ports of destination on "X"+2 day. Within the German Navy, the codeword for the operation will be "Afrika".
- c) The route of the convoys leads through the area between 18° E and 22° E. Italian U-boats lie east and west of this area, but outside the operational area of our own U-boats. The activity of our air force and the Italian air force will extend as far as Alexandria. Results from their reconnaissance to be expected.
- 2) Reports on the enemy
 The enemy naval forces operating in the Eastern
 Mediterranean are based primarily on Alexandria.
 At present, there are 3 battleships ("Valiant",
 "Barham", "Queen Elizabeth"), one heavy cruiser,
 3 light cruisers, 3 anti-aircraft cruisers, 2
 minelaying cruisers and about 20 destroyers. It
 must be expected that the execution of Operation
 "Afrika" will cause a considerable part of these
 forces to put to sea.
- 3) Task
 - a) Disposition of all our available U-boats directly off Alexandria.

b) Positions are to be taken up as early as

possible.

c) Enemy naval forces to be attacked as they leave or re-enter port. In the rather narrow sea area off Alexandria, U-boats are permitted to attack only warships from cruisers upwards and outgoing merchant ships over 4000 tons. Exceptions: large destroyers if firing opportunities are particularly good; merchant ships which are putting in, if they present particularly valuable targets.

Appendix 5

Sinking of the "Badalona" by U453

- A. 1) The steamer was stopped because the Commander was convinced that she was an enemy steamer camouflaged under Spanish markings. His conviction was based on the fact that enemy aircraft had remained for a long time in the vicinity of this steamer, which was steering a course for Gibraltar.
 - 2) When the aircraft were out of sight temporarily, the Commander decided on a soarch.
 - 3) The steamer was then requested to stop in a morse message made with searchlight. She did not comply until the Commander had fired warning shots across the bow.

 Examination of her papers showed the ship to be neutral.
 - 4) The sinking took place because the steamer did not stop in spite of repeated requests, but made off at maximum speed, and because she repeatedly made use of her radio, thus indicating that she was trying to contact Gibraltar.

B. Comments of Captain U-boats

- 1) The Commander misunderstood the meaning of the orders. He lacked the general experience which would have made him equal to this situation.
- 2) He was on his first enemy patrol; he had put out from Kiel, and while still at soa, had been ordered to go straight to the Mediterranean.

 Thus he could not be given special instructions concerning this operational area.
- 3) He was determined not to be deceived, and was convinced that he must take action.
- 4) He has been thoroughly instructed in the mistakes which he made in the interpretation of the orders.

 Under present conditions partly very young and very inexperienced Commanders, who have had only a very quick training for these duties incidents of this kind are liable to recur.

Emergency teleprint message to:

Navy - Group South, Admiral Acgean, 23 U-boat Flotilla.

for information: X

N Fliegerkorps,
Sea Defense Commandant Crete,
Sca Defense Commandant Attica,
Marisudest (C-in-C. Italian Naval
Forces in Athens).

Subject: Proposals for ruling of anti-submarine measures in the Aegcan.

Previous reference: 1) Admiral Aegean Host Secret 154/41 S.O.s only.

2) Group South (Operations) Host Secret 6309.

A. The following attitude is taken by German
Naval Command Italy with regard to the ruling on
anti-submarine measures proposed by Admiral

- 1) The possibility of U-boats, ready to leave or re-enter port, having to wait because antisubmarine measures have not yet been suspended or because confirmation of the suspension has not yet been received, is at variance with the request for fullest possible use of this most telling arm of the Navy. As the proposed ruling offers no guarantee that such delays will remain isolated cases, and as this cannot be expected in view of the increasing Aegean traffic, this ruling appears to be unsatisfactory.
- 2) At the outset it is extremely undesirable that under certain circumstances boats putting in should have to wait in an area, which, apart from being dangerous on account of the enemy, lies within the 40 miles zone along our own and allied coasts, in which anti-submarine measures by our own forces are always permitted except when a ban is specifically announced.
- 3) The proposal that U-boats should pass through the Straits of Cerigo or Cerigotti in submerged position cannot be understood. If antisubmarine measures are suspended, the Straits could be traversed on the surface. If antisubmarine measures are not suspended, they cannot be traversed even in a submerged position. Why are the U-boats to pass through only in a submerged position? What are the boats to do which cannot submerge?
- 4) a. The anti-submarine measures permitted within a radius of 10 miles around our own convoys, even if in reality suspended in the whole area because of U-boats putting in endanger our own U-boats at sea, who may find themselves in a danger area unwitting (because of faulty radio communication, unforeseen changes in convoy courses, bad visibility). This ruling therefore seems in need of improvement.

- b. The suggested breadth of 40 miles to allow for U-boats putting in, would not give much room for extensive evasive action in view of the 20 miles allocated for antisubmarine measures in the event of a convoy run.
- c. If air escort is operating it is out of the question to leave the aircraft to decide whether a boat is inside or outside the 10 mile radius,

Moreover it appears:

- 5) Previous instruction of the boats cannot be guaranteed in view of the difficulties which often occur in communication.
- 6) Finally the Naval Command Italy is of the opinion that the proposed ruling does not meet the present requirements.
- B. 1) In order to establish absolute clarity in the majority of cases, it is proposed to separate the areas in which U-boats and surface ships operate basically.
 - 2) In cases where these areas overlap i.e. in cases where such a basic separation could not be made, protection of our U-boats must be considered before attack on enemy submarines.

With this in view the following individual

arrangements are proposed:

- a. In the area in which our own U-boats operate, anti-submarine measures to be permanently banned. They will be permitted in certain cases by Admiral Aegean if none of our U-boats are passing through the area. S.O. 23 U-boat Flotilla should report to Admiral Aegean whenever this is the case.
- b. If possible our own convoys and independent ships etc. should pass through this area only when none of our own U-boats are there at the time.
- c. If this should not prove possible in individual cases, then anti-submarine measures should be executed by escorting naval forces only against submarines definitely identified as hostile.

 Operating air escort is absolutely forbidden to attack submarines in this area. The submarine should merely be forced to submerge and then reported.
- d. The probable movements of our own ships etc. which notwithstanding have to proceed through this area will be reported to our own U-boats through S.O. 23rd U-boat Flotilla.

e. Basically, our own ships must consider all U-boats encountered in this area to be friendly, unless they are expressly informed that none of our own U-boats are in that area.

Naval Command Italy Nost Secret 8300/41. Appendix 7/I

20 December 1941.

A poet of the same of the same of

German Naval Command Italy.
Serial No. Most Secret/S.O.s only 488/41.

Operational Order No.6.

U-boat operations off Malta.

- 1) Reports on the enemy:
 - 1. Valetta, on the island of Malta, is still a very important enemy base in the Mediterranean. There is always a British cruiser squadron operating from there, carrying out a series of telling thrusts aimed at the German-Italian supply traffic to North Africa. About 7-10 destroyers are stationed there permanently.
 - 2. Valetta is also the intermediate station for enemy supply traffic running in an east-west direction in the Mediterranean. This traffic is not very considerable. The ships operating here are almost all fast ships (ships of 12-14 knots). They mostly sail alone and strive to pass through the Malta area at night. At present it cannot be determined exactly how much convoy traffic there is. Isolated observations indicate that convoys do run at times.
 - 3. The amount of shipping in Valetta harbor at present is strikingly high. The following have been identified by air reconnaissance:

l battleship, 14 merchant ships (5000-8000 GRT)

l large troopship (12000-15000 GRT).

Judging by previous experience it is probable that these ships will not stay long in Malta; their departure is expected in the next few days. It is possible that this unusual assembly of shipping forms part of enemy preparations for a landing operation, which may be expected roughly in the direction of the Gulf of Syrte. The presence of a battleship strengthens this suspicion.

2) Own forces

- 1. German E-boats are the only surface forces

 One operating in the Malta area based on

 Augusta, Sicily. U-boats will be informed in

 good time concerning their operations.
 - Italian submarines are in the following attack areas:

0.2 0 0. 0						
"Santarosa"	36°	M		360	401	M
	150	401	E	160	201	E
"Topazio"	340	201	N	350	100	N
	150	401	E	160	201	E
"Squalo"	340	201	N	350	100	N
	140	001	E		401	

- 3. Our own supply traffic to Morth Africa is being diverted to give Malta a wider berth Otherwise it goes through the area betwee 10° and 23° 30! E. Italian naval forces often operate in this area as escort. Our transport and our naval forces will be informed in advance as far as possible. As we have learned however that very ofte this is either impossible or almost impossible, restrictions in attacks apply to this area also (in accordance with para.IVb).
- 4. Expect continuous transmission of results obtained by our own air reconnaissance.
- The boats U74 and U77 are to proceed from Hessina to the Eastern Mediterranean via Halta with the main object of attacking enemy forces noted in para.l if they should put to sea.
- 4) Execution
 a) Disposition of boats in 2 operational areas bounded by 36° 20' N, 15° 40' E and 35° 20' N, 14° 30' E.
 - b) Operate in these areas as close as possible to the expected enemy approach routes to Valetta, but by day outside the 100 meter line.
 - c) Freedom to attack all targets except submarines.
 - d) While making use of all opportunities to attack, special value is attached to observation of the inward routes.
 - e) Remain in operational area for 3 days. If the anti-submarine measures encountered are too strong so that the boats find it impossible to remain, the operation may t broken off earlier; experiences should then be reported as soon as possible.
- 5) Individual executive orders issued by Captain U-boats.

Appendix VII to War Diary of Captain U-boats Part II Operational order Mediterranean No.2. for U74 and U77 I. Assignment
1) Reconnaissance east of Malta for offensive possibilities. 2) Attack on any available enemy targets. (For areas where freedom of attack applies see paras. IV B 4 and 5). II. Reports on the enemy A. 1) Valetta, Malta, is still a very important enemy base in the Mediterranean. There is always a British cruiser squadron operating from there, carrying out a series of telling thrusts aimed at the German-Italian supply traffic to North Africa. About 7-10 destroyers are stationed there permanently. 2) Valetta is also the intermediate base for enemy supply traffic running in an eastwest direction in the Mediterranean. The ships operating here are almost all fast ships (ships of 12-14 knots). They mostly sail alone and strive to pass through the Malta area at night. At present it cannot be exactly determined how much convoy traffic there is. Isolated observations indicate that convoys do run at times. 3) The amount of shipping in Valetta harbor at present is strikingly high. The following have been identified by air reconnaissance: l battleship, 14 merchant ships 5000-8000 GRT, l large troopship 12000-15000 GRT. Judging by previous experience, it is probable that these ships will not stay long in Malta; their departure is expected within the next few days. It is possible that this unusual assembly of shipping forms part of enemy preparations for a landing operation, which may be expected roughly in the direction of the Gulf of Syrte. The presence of a battleship strengthens this suspicion. B. 4) The positions of the Malta minefields can be seen from the attached appendix; the enemy inward and outward routes

B. 4) The positions of the Malta minefields can be seen from the attached appendix; the enemy inward and outward routes marked on it came from captured enemy material. Similar details for other areas have always proved correct up till now. As we have not carried out any operations directly off Malta during recent months, the enemy has had no cause to alter his routes.

- 5) The air activity in this region is probably considerable. Special operations by enemy air forces to attack U-boats have not been ascertained to date in the Central Mediterranean.
- 6) Judging by experiences gained so far, naval forces in the Mediterranean are unpractised in anti-submarine activity. Because of the very frequent air reconnaissance off Malta itself, we have the impression that there is little or no stationary anti-submarine defense.

III. Reports on own forces

- 1) German E-boats are the only surface forces operating in the Malta area based on Augusta, Sicily. U-boats will be informed in good time concerning their operations.
- 2) Italian submarines are in the following attack areas:

"Santarosa"	360 I	I		36°	401	N
	15° 4	101	E	160	201	E
"Topazio"	340 2			350	0 1	N
	150 4	101	E		201	
"Squalo"	340 2	201	N	350	100	N
_	140	100	E		401	

- 3) Our own supply traffic to North Africa is being diverted to give Malta a wider berth. Otherwise it goes through the area between 10° E and 23° 30' E. Italian naval forces often operate in this area as escort.

 Our transport and our naval forces will be informed in advance as far as possible. As we have learned, however, that this is either impossible or almost impossible, restrictions in attacks apply to this area also (in accordance with para. IV b).
- 4) Expect continuous transmission of results obtained by our own air reconnaissance.
- IV. Execution
 A. 1) West of 15 40' E, the attack arcas are to be occupied by:

 U74 area between 36° 20' N and 35° 50' N.

 U77 area between 55° 50' N and 35° 20' N.

 Western limit 14° 30' E.

 Freedom of attack on all targets in this area except submarines.
 - 2) The attack areas which have been ordered are to be occupied for 3 days. Efforts are to be made to come within torpedoing-range of the enemy inward and outward routes (see appendix). By day always remain in waters over 100 meters in depth. At the end of this

period the boats are to continue independently, without sending a report and to proceed to the Eastern Mediterranean steering for CO 56. Further orders to follow by radio. From the time of leaving this area, Operational Order No.49 will be in force.

- 3) If the U-boats feel that they cannot remain off Malta under the conditions obtaining, or that there are no prospects of offensive operations, they may proceed to the Eastern Mediterranean earlier. When about 150 miles from Malta, position and situation encountered should be reported.
- B. 4) In the area between 10° E and 23° 30' E attacks on all submarines are absolutely forbidden.
 - 5) In the area between 10° E and 23° 30' E, with the exception of the operational area off Malta to which the 2 boats have been allocated, (see para. IV A 1); attacks forbidden on all naval and merchant vessels with the exception of ships which are obviously enemy. The fact that a ship is darkened or steering a definite course cannot be considered as proof in itself of hostile character.
- V. Communications regulations
 Boats at first to remain on Service "Irland"; after
 leaving for the Eastern Mediterranean they will be
 ordered to transfer to Service Crete.

Appendix 8.

Table of successes of German U-boats in the Mediterranean from 8 to 31 December 1941 (according to reports received)

The following were sunk:

D	ate	Ву	Sunk	Position	Remarks
1	l Déc.	U374	1 Gunboat	Straits of Gibraltar	About 1000 to 1200 tons
1	l Dec.	U374	l Patrol vessel	Straits of Gibraltar	Trawler type
1	4 Dec.	U557	1 Cruiser	40 miles westnorth- west of Alexandria	Probably "Aurora" class
1	9 Dec.	U371	l Cruiser		"Leander" class
2:	l Dec.	U652	l Tanker (7000 GRT)	Aegean	Russian tanker from Dardanelles
24	1 Dec.	U568	l Destroyer	North of Tobruk	Single-funnel type
24	1 Dec.	U559	1 Steamer	North of Tobruk	From eastbound convoy
28	B Dec.	U559	1 Steamer	Eastnorth- east of Bardia	From eastbound convoy .

The following were damaged:

Date		Ву	Damaged	Position	Remarks
13 D	ec.	U431	l Steamer	West of Alexandria	
		U573	1 Passenger steamer (about 8000 tons)	East of Gibraltar	Two torpedo hits, bows torn off. No further observations of anti-submarine measures by escort forces. Sinking probable.
24 De	ec.	U559	1 Steamer	North of Tobruk	From eastbound convoy

Total of units sunk: 2 Cruisers

- 1 Tanker
- 1 Destroyer
- 1 Gunboat
- l Patrol Vessel
- 2 Steamers.

Total of units damaged: 3 Steamers.

WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

1 - 15 JANUARY, 1942

PG/30921

1 January 1942

- I. a) U75 CP 7190, U77 CP 7164, U79 CP 7190, U97. CK 9430, U371 CP 7220, U74 CP 7160, U374 CP 7251, U568 CP 770.
 - b) U652 put in to Spezia. U133 put out from Messina.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance southwest and south of Sicily.

 German reconnaissance west of Sicily.
 - , b) German reconnaissance southeast of Sicily.

III. a) ./.

- b) 0950 CO 9358 one battleship, two heavy cruisers, course 150°, moderate speed.

 1034 Bardia bombarded for 5 hours by 5 cruisers (?) 20 km off the coast.

 1250 CO 4651 (warship, southerly course, high speed).
- c) ./.
- d) From Spanish source: A number of ships have passed Alboran.
- IV. a) Alexandria operation: It is expected that all the U-boats will take up their allotted attack areas during the night of 1/2 January.
 - b) Ul33 has been ordered to proceed along the coast of Cyrenaica to the area west of Alexandria.

V. ./.

VI. a) ./.

b) ./.

2 January 1942

- I. a) U75 CP 7190, U77 CP 7160, U79 CP 7190, U97 CK 9430, U133 CO 1540, U371 CP 7220, U74 CP 7160, U374 CP 7250, U568 CP 7270.
 - b) Ul33 put out from Messina at 1600.
- II. a) German reconnaissance west and southwest of Sicily in the morning, west of Sicily in the afternoon.

 Italian reconnaissance west of Sicily in the morning; south of Sicily in the afternoon.
 - b) During the morning armed German reconnaissance in Athens, Tobruk and Benghazi area.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 1730 Italian air reconnaissance: one submarine in CJ 7396.
 - c) ./.
 - d) ./.
- IV. a) The transport of supplies to North Africa proceeds according to plan. We must take into account the fact that the enemy may now have detected these movements. No reaction on his side has yet been established. The disposition of the U-boats off Alexandria has been somewhat altered because of a report from the Commander of U562, which has just returned from this area. Operations will be focussed even more on the western route, while the northern route is to be occupied by only one boat. The sector of dispositions on the western route is being somewhat broadened. The boats inside are being exchanged with the boats in the center positions.
 - b) ./.
 - V. ./.
- VI. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

<u>3 January 1942</u>

- I. a) U75 CP 7190, U77 CP 7160, CP 7160; U97 CK 9430, U79 U133 CO 6480, U371 CP 7220, .U74 CO 7190, U374 CP 7240, U568 CP 7270.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) German reconnaissance West of Sicily in the morning, Italian reconnaissance west and southwest of Sicily in the morning.
 - b) ./.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) Italian air reconnaissance: 1030 CO 9242 one steamer 3000-10000 tons, one destroyer, course 330°, speed 10 knots.

1055 CP 7156 five destroyers, three merchant ships 1000-3000 tons, course 330°.

German air reconnaissance: 1115 CO 4972 one destroyer, course 1000, moderate speed. Italian air reconnaissance: 0630 CJ 9728 one submarine, 1445 CP 7532 one light cruiser, course 2850.

- c) ./.
- d) ./.
- IV. a) Transport of supplies according to plan. No visible enemy reaction. U75 reported that his operational efficiency is limited, and has moved off westward. U568 has been ordered to take over the former's area as well.
 - b) ./.
 - v. ./.
- VI. a) Because of a request made to Naval War Staff by C-in-C. U-boats (in C-in-C U-boats Most Secret/S.O.s only 783/41) the final number of boats to be despatched to the Mediterranean has been provisionally fixed at 25 to 26 boats. In Naval War Staff/1st Division (Operations) 2220/41 Most Secret/S.O.s only of 2 January Naval War Staff bases its decision on

1) Improvement of the situation in the

Mediterranean,
2) Alteration of its original plan to operate U-boats in the Western Mediterranean, as this area offers little prospect of successes now,

3) Dangers in Straits of Gibraltar. German Naval Command judges the situation otherwise and reports its opinion in S.O.s only 11/42.

- I. a) U75 CP 7190, U77 CP 7764, U79 CP 7169, U97 CK 9430, U371 CP 7220, U74 CO 6950, U374 CP 7240, U568 CP 7270.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian air reconnaissance west and south of Sicily. German air reconnaissance in the Central Mediterranean to protect a southbound convoy.
 - b) ./.
- III. a) Italian U-boat at 0200 reported a British submarine in CN 3595, 1350.
 - b) 0845 CN 3885 one submarine, course 1600, speed 10 knots,
 0930 CO 4975 one destroyer, one warship (2000 tons), two merchant ships (2000 tons), two tugs, course 730, speed slight,
 0945 CO 7924 one submarine.
 - Italian air reconnaissance:
 1000 CL 6884 three merchant vessels up to
 3000 tons, mean course
 easterly, speed 8 knots,
 1007 CL 8332 one merchant ship over 8000

tons, one destroyer, course 270°, speed 6 knots,

1215 CO 2183 one submarine, 1220 CP 7278 two destroyers, course 3000, speed 22 knots.

- c) According to Italian radio intelligence, the cruiser "Hermione" is in the Western Mediterranean.
- d) ./.
- IV. a) U74 has commenced return voyage. Transport of supplies accomplished successfully. As there is the possibility that our air reconnaissance has not intercepted enemy movements (reconnaissance not exhaustive), the U-boats will remain in position to intercept the enemy returning if occasion arises.

 The boats have been ordered to move off west after 0000 on 5 January.
 - b) ./.
 - V., VI. a) and b) ./.

- I. a) U205 CJ 1960, U74 CO 1950, U97 CK 9430, U77 CO 6720, U133 CO 6840, U568 CO 6860, U75 CO 6980, U374 CO 9130, U79 CO 9220, U371 CO 9340.
 - b) U205 put out from Spezia.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance west and south of Sicily in morning.
 - b) Italian reconnaissance southeast of Sicily in the afternoon.

 German reconnaissance (armed) in the Athens, Tobruk, Benghazi area in the afternoon.

III. a) ./.

- b) Italian:

 1040 CO 9269 one cruiser (?), one steamer

 1000 3000 tons, course 90°,

 1050 CO 9242 one destroyer, two steamers

 1000 3000 tons, course 270°,

 speed 10 knots,

 1100 CO 9252 one destroyer, course 0°, stopped,

 1110 CP 7199 two cruisers, course 300°,

 1130 CP 7258 two light cruisers, mean course

 northwesterly;

 1430 CJ 9663 one submarine,

 1635 CO 3726 one submarine, course 270°.
- c) ./.
- d) ./.
- IV. a) Operation off Alexandria ended at 0000. Boats are moving away westwards. This time the operation has not been successful. They have been requested to report their positions during the coming night in definite order of succession.
 - b) The new disposition provides a north-south line with each boat in an 18 mile square in the area from the coast to 60 miles away.

 Disposition: U75 C0 6980

U568 - CO 6860 U133 - CO 6810

These boats to concentrate in the north

U371 - CO 6940 U79 - CO 9250 U374 - CO 9130 U77 - CO 9780

Concentration in the south.

V. ./.

VI. a) ./.

b) Conferences on Pola W-poat base. Organization and development.

- I. a) U74 CJ 8230, U205 CJ 9410, U97 CK 9430, U77 CO 6720, U133 CO 6840, U568 CO 6890, U75 CO 6980, U371 CO 6970, U374 CO 9130, U79 CO 9220.
 - b) U74 put in to Messina and out again.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) German reconnaissance in Malta area and south of Crete in morning (patchy because of weather).

III. a) ./.

- b) Italian air reconnaissance:

 0940 CJ 9635 one submarine, course 1350,

 1315 CO 9383 one steamer 3000-10000 tons,

 course 1950, speed 2 knots,

 two M.T.B.s,

 1330 CO 3434 one submarine, course 2500,

 speed 4 knots,

 1340 CO 6885 two heavy cruisers, two light
 - 1340 CO 6885 two heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, four destroyers, westerly course, speed 20 knots.
- c) According to Italian radio intelligence, the cruiser "Dido" is again in the Mediterranean.
- d) ./.

IV. a) ./.

- b) After the fall of Bardia, the German Air Force and U-boats received orders not to attack any ships under 6000 tons on an easterly course east of Bardia.

 Reason: To protect transports carrying German prisoners of war.
- V. U75 and U79 have not replied to the request to report their positions.
- VI. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

7 January 1942

- I. a) U74 CJ 1390, U205 CO 1450, U577 CO 1810, U371 CO 5370, U97 CK 9460, U77 CO 6720, U133 CO 6840, U568 CO 6890, U75 CO 6980, U371 CO 6970, U374 CO 9130, U79 CO 9220.
 - b) U577 and U205 put out from Messina.
- II. a) No reconnaissance because of weather.
 - b) No reconnaissance because of weather.
- III. a), b), c), d) ./.
 - IV. a) ./.
 - b) Situation report from U371:
 From "Driver":
 Only western route traffic established. Patrol
 line 30 miles further to the west would be more
 favorable for flanking boats.
 Destroyers on exploratory sweeps by day, for the
 first time with echo ranging sets. Enemy still
 unpractised in the use of this. Possibly a
 destroyer was torpedoed as well as the
 "Neptune". After 0600 returned to C0 6976.
 - V. U75 and U79 called up again. Did not report.
 - VI. a) According to Naval War Staff/lst Division Operations 16/42 S.O's only, it has been decided that 2 or 3 more U-boats in all are still to be sent to the Mediterranean.
 - b) ./.

- I. a) U77 CO 6780, U97 CO 3120, U133 CO 7150, U205 CO 1460, U577 CO 1120.
 - b) U74 put in to Spezia at 1100.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) German reconnaissance between 20° and 24° E, nothing sighted, patchy because of weather.
- III. a) Italian Navy:
 9 January 0222 enemy submarine CO 2857,
 0700 enemy submarine CN 3336.
 - b) ./.
 - c) A battleship of the First Squadron is apparently at sea.
 - d) ./.
 - IV. a) ./.
 - b) U235 and U577 have been ordered to make for CO 93 northern and southern half. Situation report from U568:
 "On U-boat radio wave (Crete 1) 2102/7/568 time of receipt 2252. To Captain U-boats: Nothing of interest observed in MG 02. In ON Ol on 30 December anti-submarine hunt by three destroyers. Depth charges. Strong air patrols, occasionally at night, anti-submarine group of three patrol vessels with two aircraft in WF 9860 on 6 January. Otherwise nothing seen.

U97 has been ordered (by Admiral Aegean, to whom he is operationally subordinate) to put into port because one man is sick.

- V. U374 has not reported as requested.
- VI. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

9 January 1942

- I. a) U77 C0 7130, U133 C0 7150, U205 C0 5150, U371 C0 5310, U568 C0 7140, U577 C0 1960.
 - b) U97 put in to Salamis at 1015.
- II. a), b) ./.

III. a) ./.

- b) Italian air force report:
 1145 enemy submarine 4 miles southeast of
 Cape Colonne,
 - 0408 on 10 January. Enemy submarine, course 2500, 18 miles from Antipaxi,

Convoy with two destroyers in Sidi Barrani area,

- 1325 one heavy cruiser, one destroyer, one merchant ship 2000-8000 tons, one small steamer of 2000 tons in CO 5587.
- c) The British cruiser "Hermione" is supposed to be in the western Mediterranean.
- d) ./.
- IV. a) ./.
 - b) Nothing of special interest in U77's situation report.
- V. U75, U79, U374 were requested to report again, but have not done so. We are very anxious about the boats. For summary of available data see Appendix 1.
- VI. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

- I. a) U77 CO 6780, U133 CO 6840, U205 CO 6710, U568 CO 6890, U577 CO 5650.
 - b) U371 put in to Salamis at 0915.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance between 20° and 24° E, nothing sighted. Not exhaustive because of weather.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air report:
 One heavy cruiser in Valetta at 1445.
 - c), d) ./.
 - IV. a) The loose disposition in a north-south line has produced no successes after 5 days. The boats have been detailed to carry out a lightning attack on the route to Tobruk (learnt from captured material).

 See Appendix 2 for orders concerning this. The first attack is fixed for the night l1/12 January.
 - b) ./.

V., VI. a), b) ./.

11 January 1942

- I. a) U77 C0 6780, U133 C0 6790, U205 C0 9220, U568 C0 6760, U577 C0 9130.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance, nothing sighted. Not exhaustive because of weather.
- III. a), b), c), d) ./.
 - IV. a), b) ./.
 - V. ./.
- VI. a), b) ./.

12 January 1942

- I. a) U77 CO 5900, U205 CO 6740, U133 CO 5990, U568 CO 5600, U577 CO 6780.
 - b) U97 put out from Salamis at 1500.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance between 20° and 24° E, 36° N and African coast. Nothing sighted.

III. a) ./.

- b) German air report at 0610 of hospital ship at anchor, position 32° 22' N 23° 25' E.
 Italian air report:
 1000 enemy submarine CJ 9893, course 270°,
 1608 enemy submarine CJ 9868, course 90°.
- c) ./.
- d) ./.
- IV. a) The operation against the route to Tobruk has led to the torpedoing of a "Jervis" class destroyer by U77. The attack is to be repeated to-morrow night.
 - b) U568 and U77 homeward bound.
 - V. U77 reported a "Jervis" class destroyer torpedoed. Stern torn off. Sinking not observed. According to the radio intercept service the destroyer sank between 0900 and 0955.

13 January 1942

- I. a) U77 CO 2860, U97 CK 9870, U133 CO 5930, U205 CO 6750, U568 CO 1980, U577 CO 6780.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance between 15° and 20° E, nothing sighted, patchy as a result of the weather. Italian air reconnaissance southwest of Sicily, nothing sighted.

III. a) ./.

- b) Italian air report:
 1130 British cruiser near Tunis, course 90°,
 1010 CO 5836 four medium-sized merchant
 ships, course 270°,
 1055 enemy submarine, course 135° 7 miles from
 Cape Rizzuto (east of Cape Colonne).
- c) ./.
- d) ./.
- IV. a) Since the attack on Tobruk was successful and the radio intercept service has now given us information concerning enemy antisubmarine measures, the boats have been ordered to occupy new attack areas. Panzer Group Africa's request made repeatedly to German Naval Command to have the boats operate off Sollum has been granted, especially because as the situation has developed an attack by naval forces can now be expected against land positions here. The three U-boats in the operational area will operate as near as possible to Sollum Bay, though it is in no way ideal as regards depth of water.
 - b) ./.
 - V. It may be concluded from the radio intercept service, that an enemy unit has been torpedoed between Sollum and Alexandria. Probably a destroyer of the "Zulu" class.
- VI. a) A new supply convoy is scheduled for 20 January.
 - b) ./.

- I. a) U97 CO 9160, U133 CO 9120, U205 CO 6190, U568 CO 1580, U577 CO 9210.
 - b) U77 put in to Salamis at 0900.
 U331 put out from Salamis at 1530.

II. a) ./.

b) German air reconnaissance of Central Mediterranean, almost an exhaustive reconnaissance, nothing sighted.

III. a) ./.

- b) German air reconnaissance:
 0820 four destroyers, one cruiser with
 fighter cover, CN 3491, course 40°,
 put into port again at 0930.
 1035 CO 5578 three destroyers, two merchant
 vessels, 270°.
 1120 CO 2855 enemy submarine 300°.
 1245 five ships five miles north of Tobruk,
 type not distinguished, course 105°.
 Italian report:
 - 0645 enemy submarine 36° 25' N, 26° 35' E, 1200 " " 38° 27' N, 15° 14' E, 1130 " 38° 10' N, 13° 25' E, 1500 " 39° 25' N, 17° 18' E. German air reconnaissance:

 1520 four destroyers, one merchant ship
 - 520 four destroyers, one merchant ship 32° 55' N, 21° 25' E, course 290°, moderate speed.
- c) ./.
- d) ./.

IV. a) ./.

b) U331 has been assigned the area north of Ras Amer as approach area; it is suspected that a certain amount of the supply traffic to Benghazi and Malta converges there. It appears from reports received that

1) Benghazi has gradually become serviceable again for enemy supply traffic and is

- being used to a considerable extent;
 2) the enemy intends to use this port for larger quantities of supplies;
- 3) the traffic from the east to Benghazi and apparently Malta as well passes fairly close to the coast in the Ras Amer area.
- V. The boats were requested to report whether they had taken part in actions according to radio intercept report War Diary for 13 January para.V. No reports have been received.

VI. a), b) ./.

- I. a) U73 CH 7620, U97 CK 9460, U133 CO 9120, U331 CO 2590, U568 Strait of Messina, U205 CO 9170, U577 CO 9210.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance between 22° and 24° E and inshore waters to the east and west: no further reports apart from sightings already reported.

III. a) ./.

- b) 0955 32° 48' N 20° 5' E, four merchant vessels 2000-8000 tons, one destroyer, six aircraft, course 90°.
 - six aircraft, course 90°, 1140 CO 9354 four destroyers, two mediumsized merchant ships 2000-8000 tons, course 270°, stopped,
 - 1115 two destroyers, five steamers 3000-10000 tons in 31° 30' N, 27° 10' E, course 330°,
 - 1125 one steamer 10000-20000 tons in 31° 50' N, 26° 10' E, course 150°,
 - 1400 enemy submarine off Suda Bay.
- c) ./.
- d) Specially valuable convoy Alexandria-Benghazi (German Air Force Operations Staff).
- IV. a) From the German Air Force reconnaissance reports it appeared that a fairly large transport of supplies was moving from the direction of Alexandria westward. Presumably there is some connection between this and an intelligence report from the German Air Force Operations Staff. On the strength of these reports the boats were detailed to operate in a loose disposition. A line 20 miles in breadth parallel to the coast up to a distance of about 60 miles apart (U205, U133, U577). U205 and U133 sighted the convoy about midnight and attacked. Contact was then lost. Both boats were hunted by the escort and forced away. U205 reported: heavy air reconnaissance day and night off Sollum.
 - b) U331 has been detailed to the area 40 miles to the east and west of CO 5811.
 - V. U205 two hits on unknown targets.
 U133 one hit on destroyer probable.
- VI. a), b) ./.

Appendix 1

To C-in-C U-boats

- 1. We are anxious about U75, U79, and U374. Since 6 January U75 and U79, and since 7 January U374 have repeatedly been requested to report and have not answered. The radio intercept service provides no clues which might indicate that these boats are present in the operational area. It is possible therefore that they have been lost.
- 2. a) U79 has not reported since he put out from Salamis on 21 December. There is nothing to indicate that the boat has reached the operational area.
 - b) U75 last reported at 2359 on 27 December. The boat was then in contact with a convoy in CO 9229. The enemy consisted of one steamer, two destroyers, and one escort vessel. Course 110°, speed 8-9 knots. It is probable that the convoy attacked on the same evening by U652 was the same convoy, although U652 reported a different but as the boat says inaccurate position. U652 believed he heard torpedoes explode after midnight, which could then only have been fired by U75. It seems therefore that the boat attacked. No more reports have been received from him since this attack.
 - c) U374 last reported at O152 on 28 December. The boat was operating on the Ringelmann convoy and requested direction finding signals from the shadower at that time.
- 3. a) All three boats were ordered on 31 December to occupy attack areas close to Alexandria. It is doubtful however whether all three boats were still there at this time.
 - b) According to a British broadcast report C-in-C British Mediterranean Fleet announced in a special report on 2 January, that during the operations which took place a short time ago in the vicinity of the coast of Libya, units of the British Fleet destroyed two German and one Italian U-boats. 130 prisoners in all were taken. The destroyers "Kipling", "Hotspur" and "Hasty" were among the British units. These destroyers have been operating in the Mediterranean for months. If this news is correct, the destruction must have taken place before 2 January.

- 4. a) To date, almost all boats have reported on their return that enemy anti-submarine defenses are not numerically strong it is true, also remarkably inexperienced. Location sets have only been detected very rarely. Their use had little effect.
 - b) No planned anti-submarine hunt of any great extent and systematic type has been observed even after the destroyers were sunk off Alexandria.
 - c) The hunt for U83 is an exception. That was a purely hydrophone hunt, during which the boat apparently had the bad luck to receive a series of accidentally well-placed depth charges. One does not get the impression that, after the first successful interception of the boat, the enemy continued to hold it as successfully.
 - d) The number of depth charges used is except for U83 surprisingly small.
 - e) Even if there is very great air activity in the operational area, one cannot however say that anti-submarine hunts by aircraft play a large part in it. In any case air defense by night was observed for the first time by U77 at the end of December.
 - f) Observations made by the boats led us to conclude a certain intensification of anti-submarine hunts. Air attacks on Salamis show that the enemy intends to apply himself to attacking the U-boats more than he has done so far.
- 5. a) I think it is most probable that U75 and U374 were lost through the action of surface units. This is indicated by:
 British radio reports, and the high number of prisoners.
 In the case of U75 there is also the probability that the boat continued attacking the reported convoy. The loss must have occurred at night. It is possible that U374 also attacked the same convoy.
 - b) The loss of U79 must be regarded as a mystery. There is the possibility that it was torpedoed by an enemy submarine. All we know about the activities of enemy submarines is that they operate principally on traffic routes in the immediate vicinity of bases or on focal points. A diving failure or air attack are likewise possible. Destruction by surface forces is the least probable since one could then have expected some indication from the radio intercept service.
- 6. Conclusions:
 - a) There is no reason to regard a new defensive situation as having arisen because of these high losses.

- b) It is improbable that the disposition off Alexandria caused the losses; at least, not the loss of U75 and U374.
- c) Increased attention must be directed to the danger from enemy U-boats.
- d) The possibility of aircraft being used at night for anti-submarine hunts must be taken into account, and especially at the periods of full moon.

Appendix 2.

10 January 1942

Most Immediate teleprint message to: Naval Communications Officer Ostia Most Secret, Officer's cypher "M", U-boat radio message "Crete" from Captain U-boats.

During night 11/12 January carry out a sortie on the route leading to Tobruk, operate there and move off before dawn. See sketch of this route with which all boats are equipped, apart from Reschke.

- Distribution:
 1) West of 24 West of 24° 30' E: "Schauenburg" south of the route, "Schonder" north of it.
- 2) East of 24° 30' E:
 "Preuss" south of the prolongation of the route, "Hesse" north of it.
- 3) "Reschke": attack area AR 9740 and 9770.

Moving away by day optional. Repetition of the attack will be ordered according to the situation. Other boats freedom of action.

Captain U-boats, Italy.



WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

16 - 31 JANUARY, 1942.

PG/30922



16 January, 1942

- I. a) U 73 CH 8100, U 97 CK 9430, U 133 CO 6780, U 205 CO 6790, U 331 CO 5810, U 577 CO 6880, U 568 CJ 5810.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) German reconnaissance southeast of Sicily as far as the African coast, no results, not exhaustive because of weather.
- III. a) U 205 reported a large steamer on a westerly course in CO 6898.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

1020 CO 5939 three merchant ships, 2,000 - 8,000 tons, course 90°.

Italian Navy:

0130/17 January 35° 50' N, 25° 5' E, enemy submarine, course and speed not known.

- c) d) ./.
- IV. a) ./.
 - b) The three boats east of Sollum were ordered to leave the following positions:

U 205 6840, U 577 6870, U 133 921,

after 0800 on 17 January, and to proceed eastwards parallel to the coast, day's run 60 miles.

- V. a) ./.
 - b) U 577 was requested to report his position.
 Boat has not reported. The boat must be presumed lost.
- · VI. a) b) ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

17 January, 1942

- I. a) U 73 CH 9141, U 97 CF 9430, U 133 CO 9210, U 205 CO 6840, U 331 CO 5490, U 577 CO 6870.
 - b) U 453 put out from Spezia at 1430, U 372 " " " " 1530, U 375 " " " 1630, U 431 " " " 0535.
- II. a) b) ./.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:
 - 0930 32° 35' N, 24° 5' E, four destroyers, three merchant ships, course 270°.
 - 1000 32° 25' N, 24° 5' E, one light cruiser, three destroyers, several medium-sized merchant ships, fighter cover.
- IV. a) U 133 reported that at 0730 he came upon two destroyers in CO 9224. One of them sunk.

 U 205 heard numerous bomb explosions in the direction of CO 6850. Suspected bombs, and got a hydrophone bearing in this direction; assumed that it was the enemy convoy proceeding to Benghazi, which had been reported by the anti-submarine defense.

Both boats were ordered to go in pursuit, but reported after dark, however, that this was not possible by day because of air patrols. They were then ordered to continue passage eastwards.

- b) U 73 coming from the Atlantic reported his position in the Mediterranean and now comes under Captain U-boats' command.
- V. a) U 133 sank one destroyer in CO 9224.
 - b) As U 577 has not reported, we must assume that the boat has been lost.

Following data is available concerning the boat or can be connected with it.

U 577 came from the Atlantic and left Messina for the east on 7 January. During the night 7/8 January, he reported from CO il for no obvious reason. There were no further reports from the boat. It was detailed to operate first off Tobruk, later east of Sollum.

According to Italian radio intercept service a boat was torpedoed by two British units east of Sollum at 1545 on 13 January. These were probably "Zulu" class destroyers. A request for further information made to the boats remained unanswered. On 14 January at 1037 a reconnaissance aircraft based on Alexandria reported: Oil patches rising to the surface at a point 40 (or 4) miles bearing 160° from 33° N, 25° E.

- VI. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

18 January, 1942

- à).U 73 CH 9360, I. U 97 CK 9510, U 133 co 9220, U 205 co 6860, co 5570, U 331 У 372 СЈ 1960, U 375 СЈ 1930, U 431 CJ 1630, CJ 5140, U 453 U 561 CH 5980.
 - b) U 431 put into Spezia at 1800.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) German reconnaissance not always exhaustive.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:
 - 0930 33° 20' N, 18° 55' E, 4 cruisers, 10 destroyers, 3 steamers, course 270°.
 - 1103 32° 37' N, 17° 5' E, 1 steamer of 2,000 3,000 tons, 2 destroyers, one torpedoboat, course 120°, speed 10 knots.

Italian air reconnaissance:

1100 32° 10' N, 24° 10' E, 1 destroyer, 1 steamer of 1,800 to 3,000 tons, course 90°, speed 10 knots.

1150 31° 3' N, 28° 55' E, 1 cruiser, 3 destroyers, 3 large steamers over 8,000 tons, 1 tanker, course 285°, speed 10 knots.

German air reconnaissance:

1205 31° 15' N, 29° 15' E, 3 steamers of 2,000 - 8,000 tons, 7 guardboats, course 90°, speed 11 - 17 knots.

1104 32° 21' N, 24° 45' E, one small steamer.

1134 31° 36' N, 26° 10' E, one small steamer.

Italian Navy:

0755 35° 25' N, 24° 18' E, enemy submarine.

German air reconnaissance:

1700 33° 48' M, 18° 15' E, 2 cruisers, 15 destroyers, 6 freighters.

1737 32° 43' N, 23° 15' E, 2 destroyers, 2 freighters, course 300°, speed 10 knots.

c) Italian radio intercept report:

0949 33° 55' N, 17° 50' E, one cruiser, 5 destroyers, course 140°, speed 20 knots.

- d) ./.
- IV. a) U 205 and U 133 have been detailed to investigate the Italian aircraft report of 1150. U 133 is to operate on the convoy up to 15 miles from the coast, U 205 between 15 and 25 miles from the coast.
 - b) U 331 has been ordered to proceed along the coast eastward along a 40 mile line. The area he at present occupies is being made temporarily available to the Italians, who wish to operate 3 U-boats here.

U 561 (Bartels) reported his arrival in the Mediterranean.

.V. ./.

VI. a) During the next few days, probably on 21 January, it is intended to run a new supply transport to Tripoli. The U-boats are to be disposed off Alexandria for this, as on former occasions. If this date is adhered to, 3 German boats at most will be available, one of them with only 2 bow

and 2 stern torpedoes. The other 5 boats en route cannot reach the area north of Cyrenaica before 21 or 22 January. They are due to proceed north of 34° N, around the Italian boats' disposition; this is necessary as the Italians have given their boats permission to attack submarines in the operational area and have therefore requested that former orders stand.

The general impression during the last few days of a definite increase in traffic is deepening. Even if we reckon on duplicated or nil reports from the German Air Force, the reports permit us to conclude that traffic has greatly increased. The size of the supply steamers has apparently increased likewise. Steamers of 5,000 tons are often mentioned and partly confirmed by aerial photographs.

b) ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

19 January, 1942

- I. a) U 73 CJ 8720,
 U 97 CK 9430,
 U 131 CO 9840,
 U 205 CO 9810,
 U 331 CO 5570,
 U 372 CJ 9576,
 U 375 CJ 9540,
 U 453 CJ 9850,
 U 561 CH 9355.
 - b) U 372 put in to Messina at 1150. U 453 " " " " 1010. U 375 " " " " 1300. U 453 put out from Messina at 1710.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) German reconnaissance of Central Mediterranean.
- III. a) U 205: CO 9239 three British units, course 90°, high speed.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

0855 CN 3757 convoy, northerly course, moderate speed. Put in to Valetta at 1520.

0915 CO 5525 3 cruisers, 7 destroyers, course 90°, high speed.

0838 CO 9218 1 cruiser, 2 destroyers, 3 large freighters, 1 tanker, course 285°, specd 10 knots.

Italian report:

0925 CO 9265 2 destroyers, 3 freighters (10,000 - 20,000 tons), course 2850, speed 10 knots.

German air reconnaissance:

CO 5461 5 destroyers, 6 medium-sized freighters, course 90°.

0935 CO 9265 3 destroyers, one freighter.

1440 CO 5688 4 destroyers, 3 freighters.

1035 CP 7199 5 large freighters, 2 destroyers.

1105 CO 5962 2 freighters, southwesterly course.

c) Italian radio intercept service:

Three Fleet formations are supposed to be at sea.

- d) ./.
- IV. a) Air reconnaissance again intercepted the convoy of 3 steamers and one tanker escorted by one cruiser and three destroyers. Its speed is 8 knots.

 U 205 and U 133 have been ordered to continue to operate on it.

 Air reconnaissance again established very heavy traffic in a line about 50 miles broad along the North African coast. No clear picture can be obtained from the large number of reports.
 - b) ./. ..
- V. a) ./.
 - b) U 557 has been reported missing for the second time.
- VI. a) b) ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

20 January, 1942

- I. a) U 73 CJ 9579, U 97 CK 9430, U 133 CO 9250, U 205 CO 9230, U 331 CO 6770, U 453 CO 1420, U 561 CJ 7519.
 - b) U 73 put in to Messina at 1110. U 372 put out from Messina at 1815. U 431 put in to Spezia at 2400.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance. Nothing sighted in area "D".
 - b) German reconnaissance.

III. a) ./.

b) German air reconnaissance:

1010 CO 9254 1 freighter, 1 patrol vessel.

1038 CO 9368 1 tanker, 1 destroyer, southwesterly course.

1110 CO 7371 1 cruiser, 1 torpedoboat, course 270°, 18 knots.

1110 CP 7276 l light cruiser, l patrol vessel, course 270°.

Italian Navy:

CJ 9935 one enemy submarine.

- c) Enemy unit reported bombing attack at 1014 in CO 9252. (Apparently this concerns the units reported at 1010).
- d) ./.
- IV. a) U 205 and U 133 have not contacted the convoy. With reference to the running of the next transport unit, which is to begin on 22 January, U 331, U 205 and U 133 have been transferred to the east and ordered to be on the western route from Alexandria in attack areas at 0800 on 22 January. The other outward bound boats will not have arrived in the Eastern Mediterranean by this time. Only operations in the area of their approach route will therefore be possible.
 - b) ./.

- V. a), b) ./.
- VI. a) ./.
 - b) Position at bases.

The hasty enlargement of the bases at Spezia and Pola - which was undertaken in view of the transference of 36 German U-boats to the Mediterranean - has not only progressed according to plan, but has taken place more quickly in every respect than seemed possible at first and was agreed by the Italians. enlargement has progressed - in essentials smoothly and without any difficulties or hitches worth mentioning; it must be acknowledged that the Italian offices concerned have worked throughout quickly, objectively, generously and unhampered by officialdom, and have taken pains to meet German requirements in every way. Italian Navy has hereby submitted to very considerable limitations in these bases. The dockyard capacity attained at present is 30% higher than was proposed or agreed.

A new situation has arisen with regard to the enlargement of the bases because of Naval War Staff's decision not to despatch any more boats to the Mediterranean at present, apart from those already allocated (23 boats in all). The dockyard space already available is sufficient for the present number of boats including an adequate reserve.

If the present number of boats stands, the organization of 3 Mediterranean bases will not be necessary.

Two bases will be quite adequate, and will be more favorable for organizational and administrative reasons. Spezia must remain one of these bases, because it is the best and most efficient. The choice of the second rests between Pola and Salamis.

While Salamis has the advantage of a shorter approach route to the operational area, it is otherwise at a disadvantage compared with Pola in every way (as far as the military aspect is concerned).

Captain U-boats therefore proposes a move from Salamis to Pola. For correspondence on this subject see Appendix 1.

Simultaneously, the Italian Navy has been informed to what extent the bases will probably be occupied by German U-boats for the next 4 - 5 weeks.

For this see Appendix 2.

(Signed) Oehrn.

21 January, 1942

- I. a) U 133 CO 2975, U 205 CO 9396, U 331 CO 9325, U 97 CK 9430, U 372 CO 1425; U 431 CJ 1956, U 453 CO 2745, U 561 CJ 8577.
 - b) U 73 put out from Messina.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance west of Sicily, nothing sighted.
 - b) German reconnaissance:

Nothing sighted in the Central Mediterranean. Exhaustive south of Sicily, not exhaustive southeast of Sicily.

III. a) Italian Navy:

0300/22-January enemy submarine bearing 325° from Zuara, 12 miles away (CN 5589).

b) German air reconnaissance:

0955 CO 7521 3 destroyers, course 240°, moderate speed.

1050 CO 9396 3 destroyers, 3 freighters, course 270°, speed 12 knots.

1120 CO 8333 1 freighter, 1 guardboat, westerly course, moderate speed.

c), d) ./.

IV. a) ./.

- b) U 375, already in Messina, U 561, expected there on 22 January, and U 431 have been ordered to remain or to put in to Messina as the case may be, until further notice, as the Italian Navy is carrying out an extensive anti-submarine sweep in the area southeast of Messina in connection with the running of the transport convoys and also because the position in this sea area with regard to the movements of Italian naval forces, especially destroyers, is very confused.
- V. a), b) ./.

VI. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

22 January, 1942

- I. a) U 73 CO 1439, U 97 CK 9330, U 133 CK 8973, U 205 CO 7190, U 331 CO 7110, U 372 CO 2773, U 431 CJ 9547, U 453 CO 5637 (?), U 561 CJ 9489.
 - b) U 133 put in to Salamis at 1015, U 431 put in to Messina, U 561 put in to Messina.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) Air reconnaissance sighted no convoys or naval vessels in the Eastern and Central Mediterranean.
- III. a) Italian Mavy:

 CK 7424 enemy submarine.
 - b), c) ./.
 - d) According to an agent's report, heavy forces are preparing to put out from Alexandria, in order to help get a convoy through from Gibraltar.
- IV. a) After 0800, U 205 and U 331 in attack areas on the western route from Alexandria.
 - b) ./.
- V. a), b) ./.
- VI. a) The transport convoy has begun its passage according to plan. Enemy air reconnaissance has spotted some of the movements. No enemy reaction has yet been detected.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

23 January, 1942

- I. a) U 73 CO 2795, U 97 CK 9430, U 205 CO 7190, U 331 CO 7110, U 372 CO 5625, U 453 CO 6970.
 - b) ./.

- II. a) Italian reconnaissance south and southwest of Sicily, nothing sighted.
 - b) German reconnaissance in Central and Eastern Mediterranean, nothing sighted.
- III. a) Italian Mavy:

1745 CO 4455 enemy submarine.

- b), c) ./.
- d) Observer from Cape Serrat reported the passage of 2 steamers and 2 destroyers on an easterly course.
- IV. a) The arrival of 2 more U-boats (U 453 and U 372) can be expected during the night 24/25 January.

The following disposition of the boats has been ordered:

U 453 - CP 7150 and 7180, U 331 - CP 7110 and 7140,

U 205 - CP 7190,

after 25 January move off to CO 93, northern third and CO 69.

U 372 - 00 93 central and southern third, U 73 - 00 92 and 68.

The disposition is fairly loose. Focal point will be formed in a westerly direction and adjacent to the western route.

Heavier concentration on this route seemed pointless, as we have the impression that the enemy now uses this route less, and probably proceeds more to the south. There is however very little information.

- b) ./.
- V. a), b) ./.
- VI. a) In spite of our own intensive air reconnaissance no movements of enemy naval units have been spotted.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

24 January, 1942

- I. a) U 73 CO 2975, U 97 CO 9275, U 205 CO 7190, U 331 CO 7110, U 372 CO 9366, U 453 CO 7180.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) Italian reconnaissance southwest of Sicily. Nothing sighted.

German reconnaissance in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean, nothing sighted.

III. a) Italian Navy:

0900 CN 6728 enemy submarine, 1015 CN 6511 " " " 1700 CN 5652 " "

- b), c) ./.
- d) A British formation consisting of two cruisers and several destroyers is supposed to have left Alexandria on 22 January. The whole British Fleet is being kept at immediate readiness.
- IV. a), b) ./.
- V. a), b) ./.
- VI. a) The passage of the transport convoy is going according to plan.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

25 January, 1942

I. a) U 73 CO 2655, U 97 CK 9270, U 205 CO 9322, U 331 CO 7115, U 372 CO 9259, U 453 CO 7158.

- b) U 375 put out from Messina at 0910, U 431 put out from Messina at 0850.
- a) Italian reconnaissance west and southwest II. of Sicily.
 - b) German reconnaissance in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- III. a) Italian Navy:

1345 CJ 9858 enemy submarine, 1600 CN 6267 "

U 331: 0200 CO 9229, course 280°, speed

12 knots, 1700 CO 7176, 1 steamer, 1 destroyer, U 453: course 2700, air cover.

b) German air reconnaissance:

0945 CO 5991 5 transports, 8 destroyers, westerly course, moderate speed. 1100 CO 5968 3 light units, westerly course, moderate speed, 1245 apparently the group of 0945.

- c) Damaged merchant ship in CO 6794.
 - d) ./.

The convoys reported are divided into 2 groups. The first group consisted of 9 light naval units, including 3 cruisers, the second group consisted of 5 freighters and 8 destroyers. Both groups on a westerly course, apparently making for Malta.

- IV. a) German Air Force sighted a fairly large strongly escorted convoy on a westerly course west of our U-boat disposition off Alexandria. The Italian Navy suspects for several reasons that it is bound for Malta. The returning boats U 375 and U 431 have been ordered to proceed in the general direction of this convoy on a southerly course and at maximum speed, so that on receipt of further German Air Force reports they will be able to attack it.
 - b) The operation of Italian surface forces is now concluded.

U 375 and U 431 have been ordered to put to sea. U 571 must stay another day in port because of repairs to the radio apparatus. U 73 requested permission to put in to Salamis for repairs to the Junkers compressor.

V. a) ./.

- b) U 453 reported that it has suffered damage and must begin its return voyage.
- VI. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

26 January, 1942

- I. a) U 73 CK 8973, U 97 CK 9270, U 205 CO 9320, U 331 CO 7110, U 372 CO 9350, U 375 CO 1552, U 431 CO 1564, U 453 CO 6940.
 - b) U 73 made fast at Salamis at 1030, U 561 put out from Messina at 1718.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance southwest of Sicily, nothing to report.
 - b) German reconnaissance in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean.
- III. a) U 375: 1430 CO 4514 convoy, 4 destroyers, easterly course.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:
 - 0815 CN 6317 6 destroyers, 2 freighters, course 135°.
 - 1000 CO 4174 3 light cruisers, 9 destroyers, 1 freighter, course 2350, moderate speed.

Italian air reconnaissance:

- 1205 CN 6633 l battleship ?, 3 cruisers ?, 4 destroyers, course 120°, speed 20 knots.
- 1430 CO 4172 4 cruisers, 6 destroyers, one 20,000 ton freighter, two 10,000 ton freighters, course 2250, speed 16 knots.

German air reconnaissance:

1540 CN 6342 l cruiser, 5 destroyers, l freighter, course 300°.

Benghazi area:

1130 CO 4925 1 destroyer, 6 freighters, course 90°.

1657 CO 5487 2 destroyers, 3 freighters, course 160°, speed 5 knots.

Alexandria area:

1020 CO 9217 1 cruiser, 2 destroyers, 5 freighters, northwesterly course, moderate speed.

1200 CO 3559 enemy submarine.

c), d)../.

IV. a) No air shadower reports were at first received of the convoy reported on 25 January according to para. IV a), towards which U 375 and U 431 were ordered to proceed at maximum speed.

Boats were therefore temporarily ordered to operate south or north of the course of the previous Malta convoy.

Various air reports were later received which did not give a clear picture as regards details, but which however made it obvious that one convoy is proceeding to Malta, that another has put out from Malta to the southeast and that several groups of escort forces are guarding the convoys.

U 375 gained temporary contact with one such group. The boats did not however gain contact with the convoy. It must be assumed that their freedom of movement (by day) is substantially hindered by the heavy air activity.

It is apparent from the boats' reports that further operations during the night on the Malta-bound convoy have no longer any point. They have been ordered to continue their voyage eastward. "Dommes" in a sector 30 to 50 miles off the coast, "Könenkamp" 10 - 30 miles off the coast.

- b) ./.
- V. a), b) ./.
- VI. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

27 January, 1942

- I. a) U 81 CJ 5450,
 U 561 CO 5610,
 U 453 CO 2870,
 U 431 CO 5590,
 U 375 CO 5930,
 U 331 CO 6740,
 U 205 CO 9310,
 U 372 CP 7150,
 U 97 CK 9270.
 - b) U 81 put out from Spezia at 1600.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance in the forenoon and afternoon west of Sicily and in the Central Mediterranean.
 - the coastal area of Cyrenaica, in the forenoon and afternoon.

III. a) ./.

b) Italian air reconnaissance:

0900 CN 3495 l cruiser, 5 destroyers, 1 merchant ship.

German air reconnaissance:

1030 CO 5946 3 cruisers, 9 destroyers, 2 merchant vessels, over 8,000 tons, easterly course, moderate speed.

- c) ./.
- d) According to sighting reports, the aircraft carrier "Argus" put out from Gibraltar for exercises, returning afterwards.

According to Italian report, the "Malaya" is getting up steam for an operation eastwards with the "Argus".

IV. a) ./.

b) A loose disposition of the boats is scheduled for the next few days, on the one hand to give them more freedom after the limited disposition off Alexandria, so that each can use his own initiative and bring his sagacity to bear, on the other hand to keep them rather more apart in the approaching full moon period. Distribution will be as follows:

U 372 CP 71, 72, 47, 48. U 205 CO 68, 69, 92, 93.

Focal point in the north.

U 375 CO 68, 69, 92, 93.

Focal point in the south.

U 331 CO 59, 67, 83, 91.

Focal point off Tobruk.

U 431 CO 59, 67, 83, 91.

Focal point off Tobruk.

- V. a), b) ./.
- VI. a) Captain Kreisch commences duty as Captain U-boats Italy.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

28 January, 1942

- I. a) U 561 CO 5610,
 U 453 CO 2870,
 U 81 CJ 5450,
 U 97 CK 9270,
 U 331 CO 6740,
 U 375 CO 5930,
 U 431 CO 5590,
 U 205 CO 9310,
 U 372 CP 7150.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance west of Sicily in the forenoon, the same in the afternoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance southeast of Sicily, armed reconnaissance off Cyrenaica in the forenoon and afternoon.

III. a) ./.

b) German air reconnaissance sighted at 0835 in CO 5939 a fairly small warship, course 290°, moderate speed.

Italian air reconnaissance reported one submarine at 1200 in CJ 3862.

c), d) ./.

- IV. a), b) ./.
- V. a) British News Service announced the sinking of the "Barham". (25 November 1941 by U 331).
 - b) ./.
- VI. a) ./.
 - b) Conference concerning the organization of Pola. See memorandum in Appendix 3.

(Signed) Kreisch.

29 January, 1942

- I. a) U 205 CO 6850, U 97 CK 9720, U 453 CK 7241, U 331 CO 6840, U 431 CO 9130, U 561 CO 5580, U 375 CO 9250, U 372 CN 3352, U 81 CJ 9540.
 - b) U 372 put in to Messina at 1530, put out at 1845. U 81 put in to Messina at 1210, put out at 1735.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance west and south of Sicily during the forenoon and afternoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance:

Armed reconnaissance in the Tobruk area in the morning and afternoon.

- III. a) 1703 CO 6772 one destroyer, 2 escort vessels, two steamers, easterly course, speed slight.
 - 1850 CO 6781 one destroyer, 2 escort vessels, 2 steamers, easterly course, speed slight.
 - b) 1228 CO 5986 according to German air reconnaissance 2 escort vessels, 2 medium-sized steamers, course 70°.
 - c), d) ./.
- IV. a) At 1703 U 431 made contact with a convoy of 2 steamers, 2 patrol vessels and one destroyer in CO 6772, easterly course. The boat maintained

contact until 2149 in CO 6799, where it sank an escort vessel and was then forced away. It may be concluded from the shadowers' reports (constantly received) during the day, that it was possible to shadow while surfaced. The other boats were ordered to operate on the same convoy. Contact was not regained however. U 205 was attacked unsuccessfully by a Sunderland flying boat during the night.

b) U 372 arrived unannounced in Messina.
It suffered severe damage from bombs,
which were dropped in a surprise attack,
in the area west of Alexandria while
surfaced at night. Its radio had broken
down. The boat has been ordered to
continue to Spezia.

The operation of a U-boat off the Dardanelles is to cease by order of Naval War Staff. U 97 has commenced return voyage.

- V. a) U 431 sank one escort vessel in CO 6799.
 - b) ./.
- VI. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

30 January, 1942

- CO 6840, a) U 205 I. CK 9720, U 97 CK 7240, U 453 co 9320, U 331 U 431 CO 9130, U 561 CO 5991, U 375 U 372 co 9340, CJ 7179, U 81 CO 1442.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance west and southwest of Sicily in the forenoon and afternoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance south of Sicily as well as armed reconnaissance in the Tobruk inshore waters in the forenoon and afternoon.
- III. a) ./.

- b) German dir reconnaissance:
 - 0925 CO 8332 3 destroyers, 1 medium-sized merchant vessel, westerly course, moderate speed.
 - 0940 CO 9337 1 medium-sized merchant vessel, westerly course.

Italian sighting report:

1430 CJ 3187 one submarine, 0955 CK 7691 " " " 1500 CK 4837 " "

- c) ./.
- d) According to an agent's report:

1500 l cruiser, 2 destroyers, 4 steamers passing Cape Serrat, easterly course.

IV. a) ./.

b) (1) The boats in the operational area are being redistributed after the convoy action. Since the western part of Cyrenaica has been partially reconquered (Benghazi fell on 29 January) and there are no suitable harbors in the part remaining in enemy hands, no more enemy traffic is expected in the area off the west coast of Cyrenaica. The focal point of the U-boat disposition is to be moved to the area east of Tobruk. The boats will be disposed as follows:

U 561 the area northeast of Tobruk.
U 375) each a sector about 20 miles wide
U 431) parallel to the coast between
U 205) 24° 40' E and 26° 30' E.
U 331 the area between 26° 30' E and 27°
30' E.

(2) For the purposes of U-boat warfare, special air reconnaissance has been arranged as an experiment - at first for 12 days. This is to take place in the area of the U-boat disposition and extend over it about 80 miles to east and west (80 miles = night run of a steamer). Three aircraft are to be transferred to Crete for this assignment. Time of reconnaissance: late afternoon, so that there is as little time as possible before the night, when the boats can most probably operate while surfaced on targets reported.

V. a), b) ./.

VI. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

31 January, 1942

- I. a) U 205 CO 6760, U 73 ./. U 453 CJ 6216, U 331 CO 6870, U 431 CO 9130, U 561 CO 5990, U 375 CO 9230, U 81 CO 6740.
 - b) U 73 put out from Salamis at 1500, U 372 put in to Spezia at 1630, U 97 put in to Salamis at 1100.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance west and southwest of Sicily in the forenoon and afternoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance between Crete and Cyrenaica in the forenoon and afternoon. Sea area round Malta as far as Benghazi.
- III. a) U 375 (2210): 1930 CO 2226 destroyer group.
 U 331: 2330 CO 6871 2 destroyers,
 course 90°, speed 19 knots.
 2359 CO 5782 convoy, course
 40°, speed slight.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

1525 CN 2152 1 steamer, course 850, speed 8 knots.

1010 CO 8323 2 destroyers stopped.

1045 CO 5998 3 destroyers, 2 merchent ships (2,000 - 8,000 tons), course 80°, speed 11 - 17 knots.

c), d) ./.

IV. a) ./.

b) U 375 reported that it attacked a warship formation apparently at anchor in 15 meters depth of water off Mersa Matruh and probably scored a hit. U 205 has sighted hospital ships 6 times since 12 January and believed that on one occasion it was fired on by a machine-gun from a hospital ship. This assumption is not very probable. The frequent and repeatedly reported sighting by U-boats of hospital ships has brought to our notice the strikingly high number of hospital ships in relation to other traffic. The supposition is that this is supply traffic partly camouflaged as hospital ships.

- V. a) Warship probably hit (off Mersa Matruh).
 - b) ./.
- VI. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

APPENDIX 1.

To:

20 January, 1942

German Naval Command Italy, Rome.

Emergency teleprinter message to: C-in-C U-boats.

Most Secret.

Subject: German U-boat bases in the Mediterranean - no previous reference -.

- 1. Since it was decided that the number of U-boats in the Mediterranean is not to be increased at present, it is necessary to adjust the construction of the German Mediterranean bases to these new conditions and to inform the Italian Navy of it, so that it can make new arrangements with regard to its bases as the situation requires.
- 2. The present dockyard capacity is
 - (a) Spezia at least 8 boats,
 - (b) Pola 2 boats,
 - (c) Salamis 5 6 boats.
- 3. It is apparent from this that
 - (a) the present dockyard capacity is quite adequate for present conditions,
 - (b) an increase of dockyard capacity is no longer necessary,
 - (c) Spezia and Salamis alone suffice as U-boat bases at present, Pola is therefore not necessary.
- 4. The following dockyard capacity is scheduled as target (end of February):
 - (a) In Spezia 10 boats at the same time.
 - (b) In Pola 4 n n n n n n n
 - (c) In Salamis 6 " " " " "
- 5. Should an increase in the number of German Mediterranean U-boats not be expected within measurable time, it is proposed to limit ourselves to 2 bases in the Mediterranean, i.e. Spezia and Pola or Spezia and Salamis.

- 6. How far the evacuation of Salamis in favor of Pola comes into question cannot be judged here. However, the following military viewpoints are in favor:
 - (a) Essentially greater security from air attacks,
 - (b) considerably more favorable conditions with regard to supply traffic and leave of personnel,
 - (c) much better welfare facilities on the spot,
 - (d) better opportunities for commanding the Flotilla closer personal contact between Captain U-boats and Commanders, etc.
- 7. A decision is requested as to
 - (a) whether the development of the bases is to take place with only the present number of German Mediterranean U-boats as a basis, or whether a greater reserve of dockyard capacity is to be planned to provide for an alteration in the situation which cannot be foreseen at present.
 - (b) whether the transfer of the 23rd U-boat Flotilla to Pola can be considered fixed and whether the corresponding steps may be taken through official channels.

APPENDIX 2

21 January, 1942

Gorman U-boat operations in the Hediterranean

- 1. Maval War Staff because of the development of the situation in the Mediterranean, and influenced by the spread of the war in the Atlantic has decided for the present not to transfer as many German U-boats to the Mediterranean as had originally been planned.
- 2. The new situation created in the immediate future by this temporary decision causes German Naval Command to inform the Admiral's Staff of the Royal Italian Navy that during the course of the next 4 or 5 weeks they may count on the following numbers of German U-boats in Italian bases:

Spezia 8 boats, Pola 2 boats.

The dockyard facilities at these bases in excess of these numbers can thus be utilized by the Italian Navy for the period named without hindering repairs to German boats.

German Naval Command wishes to take this opportunity to express (once again) its sincere thanks to the Royal Italian Navy for the extensive, swift and excellent work performed by all Italian offices which made possible the establishment of the German U-boat bases in Italy.

APPENDIX 3

29 January, 1942

Result of conference on the organization of Pola U-boat base held in Rome on 27 January, 1942

1. Purpose of the conference:

The clarification of the question, to what extent the Naval Command can deal directly with the naval dockyard in Pola, and to what extent the Italian Navy must be concerned therein.

- It was established at the beginning of the conference that the clarification of this question depends on the question still to be decided by whom payment of work performed by the dockyard was to be made, whether directly by the German authorities, or through the Royal Italian Navy, which would then settle with Germany.
- 3. Both possibilities were then discussed.

The following agreement was reached:

Alternative (a).

If payment takes place through the Royal Italian Navy, all dealings with the civilian dockyard to be conducted via the Technical Office of the Italian Navy. The civilian dockyard to be represented by the Technical Office of the Italian Navy vis-à-vis the German authorities. The Royal Italian Favy to be responsible to the German Navy for the execution of the work.

German requirements regarding repairs to U-boats and other questions which concern the dockyard, to be represented by the German Technical Office and presented to the Technical Office of the Royal Italian Navy.

Alternative (b).

If the civilian dockyard is paid directly by the German Navy, the German Technical Office can deal direct with it It must therefore be ensured that the Italian Technical Office is kept informed by the German Technical Office of all questions which may affect the Italian Navy. Close cooperation between the two Technical Offices should be aimed at.

WAR DIARY

OF CT

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

1 - 15 FEBRUARY, 1942

PG/30923



1 February 1942

- I. a) U 205 CO 6760, U 73 CO 5344, U 331 CO 6870, U 431 CO 9130, U 561 CO 5990, U 375 CO 9230, U 81 CO 6740.
 - b) U 453 put in to Pola at 1430.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: west of Sicily in the morning. South and southwest of Sicily in the morning and afternoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance:
- III. a) U 375: 2344 CO 979? convoy, speed 12 knots.

 O155 CO 9786 convoy, course 290°.

 O300 probably CO 9787 convoy, making for Tobruk.
 - 0407 CO 9713 hydrophone bearing.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

0920 CJ 7396 3 submarines submerging. •

Italian air reconnaissance:

1300 CP 7288 2 destroyers, 3 steamers of 3,000-10,000 tons, course 2400, speed 10 knots.

1315 CP 7513 ? cruisers, 2 destroyers, 2 steamers of 10,000 tons, 2 tankers, course 2700, speed 12 knots.

Sighting report:

0940 CO 9312 1 hospital ship, southeasterly course, moderate speed.

1047 CK 7685 1 submarine.

1100 CJ 9867 1 submarine.

1120 CJ 8968 1 submarine.

to a):

Ollo CO 9789 2 freighters, 4 minesweepers, course 2900, speed 12 knots.

c), d) ,/.

IV. U 73 was detailed to an attack area in the east of the U-boat disposition.

U 375 attacked unsuccessfully a group of 2 destroyers accompanied by aircraft. On the strength of Italian aircraft reports concerning 2 groups of escorted merchant ships on a westerly course in the area west of Alexandria, the U-boats received orders to operate on them eastwards within the areas allotted to them. U 375 then contacted an apparently new group which he pursued for several hours. He was finally forced away. (Full moon). No information has been received of attacks by other U-boats. The enemy's sharp turn to southsouthwest is worthy of note.

V. ./.

VI. ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

2 February 1942

- I. a) U205 CO 6760, U73 CO 5340, U573 ./.
 U331 CO 6870, U431 CO 9130, U561 CO 5990,
 U375 CO 9230, U81 CO 6740.
 - b) U573 put out from Pola at 1625.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance:
 West, south and southeast of Sicily in
 the morning, southwest of Sicily in
 the afternoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance:
 Area around Malta in the morning and afternoon.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) Italian Navy: 1800 CK 4877 l submarine, course 0°.
 - c), d) ./.
- IV. U375's pursuit of the convoy had apparently no results. No reports have been received from other U-boats. All U-boats have received orders to return to their original attack areas.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) It is learnt from a radio intercept service message delayed in deciphering, that on the afternoon of 13 January a U-boat was destroyed by naval forces in approximately 31° 40' N 27° 20' E. One survivor. This must be <u>U577</u>. See War Diary 13 January.

VI. ./.

3 February 1942

- I. a) U205 C0 6880, U73 C0 6740, U573 CJ 6229, U331 C0 9310, U431 C0 9130, U561 C0 6760, U375 C0 9220, U81 C0 5990.
 - b) U97 put out from Salamis at 0740.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance:
 West and south of Sicily in the morning and afternoon.
 German reconnaissance:
 In the coastal area of Cyrenaica and west-ward to Halta as well as reconnaissance in the U-boats' operational area in the morning and afternoon.
- III. a) At 2009 U375 intercepted a convoy of two tankers, one steamer and four destroyers in C0 6794. More shadowers' reports from U73 and U431:- at 2151 in C0 6799, at 0049 in C0 9133, at 2308 in C0 6878, at 0308 in C0 9222.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:
 1515 CO 6771 two patrol vessels, westerly
 course, speed slight.
 Italian Navy sighted:
 1140 CK 7955 one submarine,
 1700 CN 2736 one submarine.
 - c) At 1400 aircraft shadower was reported by escort unit in CO 5956.
 - d) ./.
 - IV. U375 obtained contact on an eastbound convoy.

 During the night U431 and U73 reached it one
 after the other. U431 and U73 scored hits.

 However, the U-boats have apparently not been
 able to make out exactly what targets were hit.

 U431 reported a destroyer probably sunk.

 Towards 0300 contact was finally lost.
 - V. a) U73: 3 probable hits on convoy (CO 6798).
 U431: 4 fan 2 detonations. Destroyer
 probably sunk in CO 6877.
 - b) ./.

VT. ./.

4 February 1942

- I. a) U205 C0 6880, U73 C0 6740, U573 CK 7220, U331 C0 9310, U431 C0 9220, U561 C0 6840, U375 C0 6790, U81 C0 5990, U97 CK 8860.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance:
 West and south of Sicily in the morning and afternoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance:
 In the morning and afternoon southeast of Malta. Armed reconnaissance off the coast by Tobruk. Special reconnaissance in the U-boats' operational area and in the Strait of Messina.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:
 1145 CO 5998 one medium-sized merchant
 ship, course 900, speed 10
 knots.

Italian Navy: 1408 CJ 8941 one submarine.

- c), d) ./.
- IV. U205 commenced the return passage. Otherwise nothing to report.
- V. ./.
- VI. ./.

5 February 1942

- 1. a) U205 C0 5270, U573 C0 5670, U73 C0 6780, U331 C0 6790, U431 C0 9220, U561 C0 6770, U375 C0 6760, U81 C0 6840, U97 CK 7850, U652 ./.
 - b) U652 put out from Spezia at 1700.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance:
 West and southwest of Sicily in the morning and afternoon.
 German reconnaissance:
 In the morning and afternoon between Malta and Benghazi (exhaustive), inshore waters off Cyrenaica, special reconnaissance in the operational area in the afternoon.
- III. a) U375: 0420/5 February CO 6799 one destroyer.

b) German air reconnaissance:

1020 CO 5995 two tankers, three medium-sized merchant ships, easterly course.
1420 CO 6784 the same formation, speed 11-17 knots.
1020 CO 6778 two destroyers, westerly course.
1040 CO 6794 one cruiser, two destroyers, three medium-sized merchant ships, westerly course, moderate speed.

1600 CO 6774 the same formation, speed slight.
1100 CO 9238 two medium-sized merchant ships,
two guardboats, course 200,
moderate speed,

1409 CO 9133 three medium-sized merchant ships in line abreast.

1000 off Bardia two merchant ships of 2000 tons. Italian Navy: 1130 CJ 4668 one submarine, course 300°. 1340 CJ 8925 one submarine.

- c) British aircraft reported at 2239: Have attacked one U-boat with depth charges in CO 5789, results not known.
- d) ./.
- IV. The U-boats in the operational area have been re-distributed within the area in order to give boats which hitherto have lain far back a chance of attacking the route from Tobruk which is known from captured material; also to give U-boats which have been operating there somewhat quieter areas.

 The re-distribution provides the following attack areas:

 U561 off Tobruk,

 U81, U73 and U331 in the area between 25° and 26° 30' E in a line parallel to the coast about 20 miles broad.

U573 Gast of there to 27° 30' E roughly, U375 and U431 reported having expended all torpedoes and are returning. U81, U431 and U375 have been asked to report the situation. U431 reported:

1) Tobruk convoy traffic is passing CO 6770

and 6780.

2) Defenses have increased. Searching groups. 3) Aircraft seen at night in CO 6797 and 9261.

4) In a west wind easterly current of up to 1 knot observed.

U375 reported:

1) Daily traffic in both directions between 6750 and 9220.

2) Systematic anti-submarine sweeps by destroyer searching groups by moonlight together with aircraft.

3) Apparently new locating apparatus. No report from <u>U81</u>. Situation reports also received from <u>U73</u> and U561. U73 ran into a convoy off Tobruk in the rain and finally was hunted for 15 hours. He had the impression that it was a systematic sweep. U561 reported that he attacked the Könenkamp

convoy on 4 February with a fan of four and heard 1 hit.

a) 1 hit on Könenkamp convoy on 4 February. V.

b) U75 missing, with effect from 4 January, U374 from 7 January. U81 was requested to report the situation: Did not reply. One boat, whose signature was corrupt, reported: no traffic. Possibly U81.

VI. a), b) ./.

6 February 1942

- I. a) U205 C0 1460, U73 C0 6780, U573 C 5670, U331 C0 6790, U431 C0 5240, U561 C0 6770, U375 C0 6760, U652 CJ 9540, U81 C0 6840, U97 CJ 9860.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian air reconnaissance:

 Between Sicily and Greece in the morning.

 West and south of Sicily in the morning and afternoon.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:
 Exhaustive reconnaissance of the convoy route southeast of Malta in the morning and afternoon. Off the coast of Cyrenaica.
 Special reconnaissance in the U-boats' operational area.

III. a) ./.

- b) 0915 CO 6893 one hospital ship, course 120°, speed slight.

 1030 CO 7242 three light cruisers, three destroyers, one steamer.

 1030 CO 9391 one medium-sized steamer.

 1140 CP 7198 one tanker one destroyer, course 270°, speed 8 knots.

 1104 CN 2887 one submarine.

 1140 CO 1232 one submarine.

 2230 CO 6123 one submarine.
- c) British steamer "Llandovery Castle" reported:
 Attacked by aircraft in CO 9231. Probably
 the steamer with fighter cover reported by
 Italian aircraft at 1130 in CO 9268 was also
 the "Llandovery Castle".
- d) ./.
- IV. a) Situation report from U81: No traffic.

 Defenses increased.

Situation report from U375:

- 1) Daily traffic in two directions between CO 675 and 9220.
- 2) Systematic sweeps by anti-submarine searching groups, by moonlight with aircraft.
- V. ./.

VI. ./.

7 February 1942

- I. a) U205 CO 1833, U73 CO 6570, U573 CO 6780, U331 CO 9230, U431 CO 1910, U561 CO 9130, U375 CO 1590, U652 CO 7540, U81 CO 6970, U97 CJ 5890.
 - b) U652 put in to Messina at 1350, put out from Messina at 1950.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance:

 West and south of Sicily in the morning and afternoon, southeast of Sicily in the morning.
 - b) German reconnaissance:
 Armed reconnaissance off Cyrenaica in the forenoon and afternoon, sea area of Malta as far as Benghazi, Strait of Otranto. Special reconnaissance of the operational area in the afternoon.

III. a) ./.

b) German reconnaissance: 1100 CO 9246 one steamer 3000-10000 tons, ono destroyer, one fighter aircraft, course 900, speed 10 knots.

1450 CO 6943 one MTB, westerly course, high speed.

Italian Navy: 1040 CN 7296 one submarine. 1050 CN 5266 one submarine. 1145 CO 2681 one submarine, course 30°.

c), d) ./.

IV. a) U73 on return passage, as no torpedoes left.

U561 received orders to occupy U73's area.

U573 in addition to occupy U561's area.

V. a) ./.

VI. ./.

8 February 1942

- I. a) U205 CJ 9890, U73 CO 6570, U573 CO 6760, U331 CO 9220, U431 CJ 9970, U561 CO 9250, U375 CJ 9860, U652 CO 1170, U81 CO 6970.
 - b) U97 put in to Spezia at 1000, U431 put out from Messina for Spezia at 1645, U205 at 1245, U375 at 1820. (Put in to Messina at 0930, 0930 and 1305 respectively).
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance:
 South of Sicily in the morning and afternoon,
 west and east of Sicily in the morning.
 - b) German reconnaissance:
 Armed reconnaissance off Cyrenaica in the morning and afternoon. U-boat reconnaissance of Adriatic, Strait of Otranto in the daytime and at night. Special reconnaissance in the operational area.

III. a) ./.

b) Italian aircraft: 1055 CO 9397 one destroyer. 1205 CP 7287 one light cruiser, one destroyer. 1215 CP 7253 one destroyer, one auxiliary ship.

Italian Navy:
0645 CN 3252 one submarine.
1515 CJ 9264 one submarine.
1740 CJ 8916 one submarine.

c), d) ./.

IV., V., VI. ./.

9 February 1942

- I. a) U205 CJ 5810, U73 CO 5220, U573 CO 6790, U331 CO 9220, U431 CJ 5890, U561 CO 9220, U375 CJ 8330, U652 CO 2710, U81 CO 6970.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance.
 - b) German reconnaissance:
 Brief reconnaissance of the Western
 Mediterranean in the afternoon. Armed
 reconnaissance off Cyrenaica in the morning
 and afternoon. Special reconnaissance in
 the operational area.
- III. a) U331:
 1630 CO 9212 one auxiliary cruiser, one tanker, one freighter, destroyer(s), westerly course, speed 10 knots.

U573: 2336 CO 6790, course 1100, three destroyers.

- b) 0841 CO 6748 two light cruisers, two destroyers, two medium-sized freighters, course 90°, high speed.
 - 1130 CO 9324 one light cruiser, three destroyers, four medium-sized steamers, course 270°, moderate speed.
 - 1225 one cruiser, two destroyers, three small steamers, stopped, off Alexandria.
 - 0800 off Tobruk two steamers putting out to sea, course 30°.

Italian Navý: 1545 CJ 7329 one submarine. 2120 CO 2819 one submarine.

- c) ./.
- d) One convoy of 21 ships with the "Malaya" and one cruiser put out from Gibraltar for the east between 2230 and 2330.
- IV. Apparently U331 did not succeed in contacting the reported convoy again.
 U573 fired a fan at a "Jervis" class destroyer and missed.
- V. ./.

VI. ./.

10 February 1942

- I. a) U73 CO 3310, U573 CO 6790, U331 CO 9220, U561 CO 9220, U652 CO , U81 CO 6970.
 - b) U205 and U431 put in to Spezia at 0921, U375 at 1100.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance:
 West and south of Sicily in the morning and afternoon.
 German reconnaissance:
 West of Sicily as far as radius of action allowed in the morning and afternoon, armed reconnaissance off Cyrenaica.
- III. a) Italian U-boat: 2100 CJ 7496 enemy forces, easterly course.
 - b) Italian air reconnaissance:

 1000 CO 9367 one cruiser, one destroyer, one
 large and three small steamers,
 course 120°, speed 8 knots.

 German air reconnaissance:
 1000 CO 6858 one torpedoboat, easterly course.
 1025 CO 6895 one freighter of more than 8000
 tons, course 145°, speed slight.
 1045 CO 5998 one cruiser (attacked by
 aircraft).
 1050 CO 5992 one destroyer, varying courses,
 High speed.
 1000 CO 6989 one hospital ship, westerly
 - c) At 0915 the "Llandovery Castle" reported from CO 9324 that an enemy aircraft was attacking her.

course.

- d) ./.
- IV. Nothing to report.

11 February 1942

- I. a) U73 CJ 8312, U573 CO 6790, U331 CO 9340, U561 CO 9220, U652 CO 6740, U81 CO 9310.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian air reconnaissance:
 West and southwest of Sicily in the morning and afternoon.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:
 Nothing sighted between 23° and 28° E.
 Not quite exhaustive reconnaissance west of Sicily as far as Minorca, nothing sighted.
- III. a) Italian Navy:
 2215 CJ 9229 one submarine.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:
 0835 one cruiser, one destroyer west of
 Malta.
 - c) ./.
 - d) According to sighting reports the transport "Battory" with troops on board has put out from Gibraltar for the east. Report in IIId on 7 February proved this to be false. to a) Enemy submarine at 0030 in CK 9944.
- IV. U652, U573, U81, U561 in that order occupied the area between the meridians of C0 6714 and C0 6823 in north-south lines of the same breadth. The northern limit of the areas is the parallel in C0 6732.
- V. ./

12 February 1942

- I. a) U81 CO 9210, U331 CO 9340, U561 CO 9220, U573 CO 6780, U652 CO 6740, U73 CJ 1389.
 - b) U73 put in to Spczia at 1015.
 U83 put out from Salamis at 1630.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance:
 West and south of Sardinia, southwest of
 Sicily in the forenoon and afternoon.
 German reconnaissance:
 Inshore waters reconnaissance as far as
 28° E. Nothing sighted.
- III. a) U652 sighted an unprotected convoy at 0623 on 13 February in C0 5996 bound for Tobruk, speed 16 knots.
 - b) Italian report:
 1545 CK 7178 enemy submarine.
 German air reconnaissance:
 0905 CO 9353 one hospital ship, almost stopped.

c), d) ./.

IV. New attack areas off Alexandria have been allotted to the boats. No boats have operated in this area in the past three weeks. It is intended to have the boats make a surprise appearance again off Alexandria in the new moon period, with the exception of U331 (Tiesenhausen), who will receive orders to return to port within the next few days. Traffic bound for and coming from Alexandria is to be intercepted on routes known from captured material. The U-boats have received orders to occupy the following attack areas: U81, U652, U573 east of the line CP 7125 - CP 7485. Northern limit for U81 is line CP 7185 -CP 7278 top center. Northern limit for U652 (Fraatz) is the CP 7155 - CP 7258 line. Northern limit for U573 (Heinsohn) is the parallel of CP 7235. U561 (Bartels) and U83 (Kraus) west of the first three U-boats above as far as the meridian in CO 9326. Northern limit for U561 (Bartels) is the parallel in CO 7158. Northern limit for U83 (Kraus) is the same parallel as for U573 (Heinsohn). U651 sent a situation report, nothing seen. Strong air defenses from the coastal area, blind bombing by a Sunderland on 8 February.

V. ./.

- I. a) U83 CO 2836, U81 CO 9358, U331 CO 9262, U561 CO 9327, U573 CO 6977, U652 CO 5138.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance:
 West and southwest of Sicily.
 - b) German reconnaissance:
 In the Central Mediterranean and inshore waters.
- III. a) U652: 0700 convoy in C0 5138, course 2900, speed slight.
 - b) German reconnaissance: 0820 CO 6747 two freighters, westerly course, speed 7 knots.
 0845 CO 6888 two freighters, four destroyers, course 2900, speed 12 knots. 0930 CO 9212 one freighter, four destroyers, westerly course. 0930 CO 6872 two cruisers, three destroyers, two freighters, westerly course. 1200 Eleven ships put out from Tobruk, northeasterly course. 1340 CO 6775 two large freighters, three destroyers, westerly course, moderate speed. 1450 CO 6897 three heavy cruisers, eight destroyers, westerly course, high speed. 1530 CO 6747 seven freighters, eight destroyers, westerly course. 1530 CO 5993 three destroyers, four freighters, easterly course. Italian Navy: 1145 CK 4721 enemy submarine. 2330 CN 3576 enemy submarine, southerly course, speed 15 knots. 0210 CK 7453 enemy submarine.
 - c) British unit attacked by aircraft in CO 5992.
 - d) ./.
- IV. German air reconnaissance detected strong enemy traffic in the daytime in the U-boat operational area predominantly from east to west.

 U652 (Frantz) reported he had commenced return voyage. All torpedoes expended apart from one stern acoustic torpedo. U331 (Tiesenhausen) made three unsuccessful attacks on a "Dido" class cruiser and a

tanker of a convoy near Point "Z" on 10 February. On 13 February two hits heard on Tobruk escort, probably defense escort, over 6 minutes' running range. Prospects excellent at Point "Z". Radio message also contained: weather and rain squall.

Kraus (U83) passed 35° N to the south.

V. a) U652 (Fraatz) reported at about 0530 on 13 February two hits heard on Tobruk convoy. Running time more than 6 minutes (hit doubtful).

(Sd.) Kreisch.

14 February 1942

- I. a) U652 CO 5225, U81 CP 7430, U331 CO 6880; U83 CO 6970, U561 CP 7170, U573 CP 7240.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance:
 From Sardinia-Tunis as far as GreeceCyrenaica in the forenoon and afternoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance:
 In the forenoon and afternoon in the
 Malta-Greece-Benghazi area. In the forenoon special reconnaissance for U-boats
 in the operational area.
- III. a) U83: 0205 C0 9376 convoy, southerly course, speed slight.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:
 0820 CO 6789 three steamers, 3000-8000
 tons, course 270°, speed
 11-17 knots.

0920 CO 9354 three large steamers, four small, three destroyers, course 270°, speed slight.

0803 CH 6257 one destroyer. 1200 CN 6246 one freighter. 1420 hospital ship off Tobruk. Italian air reconnaissance:

1145 CO 9353 one auxiliary cruiser, three destroyers, six steamers of 1000-3000 tons, one auxiliary ship, course 90°, speed 8 knots.

Two convoys to and from Malta were spotted by German aircraft.

0800 CO 5131 three cruisers, fifteen
destroyers, five steamers,
3000-10000 tons, course 3100,
moderate speed. Later on a
westerly course. Reports
from: CO 5113, 2777, 1995,
CO 1994 at 1946, CO 1975 at
1435, CO 1974 at 1947; then
only separate parts of the
convoy reported; 2200 last
contact lost.

0904 CO 1749 one steamer, 8000 tons, two medium-sized freighters, seven naval vessels, course 1100, moderate speed.

110°, moderate speed. through 1782, 1769, 4232, 4331, CO 5116 at 1950.

Italian Navy: 2130 CN 5167 one submarine.

- c) 1150 CO 9381: unknown British unit: "Am being attacked by enemy aircraft".
- d) ./.

Further, German torpedo-carrying aircraft attacked one auxiliary cruiser, three destroyers, six freighters of 3000 tons and one patrol vessel in CO 9356 course 900, speed 8 knots.

- IV. Enemy movements in the U-boats' operational area spotted by German and Italian air reconnaissance have been transmitted to the boats.

 U561 (Bartels) has commenced return passage.
- V. a) U83 (Kraus) reported from CO 9347; two ships sunk out of convoy. Probably one steamer, one escort vessel.

(Sd.) Kreisch.

15 February 1942

- I. a) U83 CO 9340, U81 CO 9390, U573 CO 9320, U331 CO 6880, U652 CO 2839, U561 CO 6869.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance:
 South and southeast of Sicily in the morning and afternoon.
 German reconnaissance:
 In the area east of Malta-BenghaziCyrenaica-Crete. In the afternoon special reconnaissance in the U-boats' operational area.
- III. a) U331: 1300 CO 9211 convoy on hydrophone bearing.

 1600 CO 9229 convoy, course 110°, speed 15 knots.

 U81: 2110 CO 7146 two destroyers, westerly course.

 U573: 2310 CO 7182 convoy on hydrophone bearing.

 U573: 2336 CO 7155 convoy on hydrophone bearing.

 U81: 0002 CO 7199 one cruiser, three destroyers.
 - b) German reconnaissance:

 0810 C0 5534 seven ships, course 210°.

 Italian reconnaissance:

 0830 C0 5929 five steamers, 3000-10000

 GRT, two cruisers, ten

 destroyers, course 120°,

 speed 14 knots.

German reconnaissance: 0840 CO 5534 twenty-five ships, course 1200, moderate speed.

1020 CO 6764 twenty-seven ships, course 150°, moderate speed, thirteen cruisers, twenty destroyers and escort vessels, four steamers.

0830 CO 5929 two cruisers, course 00, speed ten knots.

Italian reconnaissance:
1000 CO 6745 one cruiser, six freighters of
3000-10000 tons, twelve
destroyers, course 1200,
speed 10 knots.

1205 CO 6796 four destroyers, course 2700, speed 20 knots.

German reconnaissance:
1510 CO 9213 twenty-two ships, including
two cruisers, nine
destroyers, easterly course,
moderate speed.

1545 CO 9123 two cruisers, four large, three medium-sized freighters, ten destroyers, four guardboats.

c), d) ./.

Italian Navy:
0145 CN 2733 one submarine.
0600 CO 3173 one submarine.
1045 CO 3185 one submarine.
1745 CO 1952 one submarine.
1745 CN 2825 one submarine.

- IV. A heavily escorted convoy was spotted by aircraft north of Tobruk on an easterly course. At 1330 U331 located this convoy by hydrophone bearing and reported it again at 1730. The boats were detailed to operate on this convoy (on the basis of the aircraft report and the report from U331).

 U83 (Kraus) fired a fan at two destroyers and missed.

 U331 (Tiesenhausen) picked up the crew of a torpedo-carrying aircraft which had been shot down.
- V. Guggenberger reported firing a fan at a formation consisting of one cruiser, three destroyers; heard two hits.

(Sd.) Kreisch.

Comments

of Flag Officer German Naval Command on War Diary of Captain U-boats, Italy for the period 1 - 15 and 16 - 28 February 1942.

Nothing to remark on execution of U-boats' operation. The War Diary of Flag Officer German Naval Command, Italy contains observations concerning the operation and the probable effects.

(Sd.) Weichold.

27 April 1942.

WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

16 - 28 FEBRUARY, 1942

PG/30924



16 February 1942

- I. a) U 83 CO 7240, U 81 CO 9350, U 573 CO 7190, U 331 CO 6880, U 559 ./. U 561 CO 5737.
 - b) U 559 put out from Salamis at 1630.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: west and south of Sicily in the forenoon and afternoon, east of Sicily in the forenoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance: south of Sicily. Inshore waters between 23° and 28° E.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 1410 CO 9345 l large, l medium-sized merchant ship, 3 destroyers, l guardboat, easterly course, high speed.

German air reconnaissance:

0904 CO 6775 l hospital ship, westerly course.
0925 CO 9385 2 patrol vessels, stopped.

- c) ./.
- d) According to reports from Italian agents:

1200 CJ 7919 1 cruiser, 2 torpedoboats, 3 steamers, easterly course.
1600 CJ 7919 1 cruiser, 2 destroyers, 4 torpedoboats, easterly course.

Italian Navy:

1535 CJ 9886 1 submarine. 0835 CO 2939 1 submarine, course 180°.

IV. The boats have been allotted new attack areas.

U 331 operating until 18 February at Point "Z" off Tobruk.

U 81 off Mersa Matruh (boat has only 2 acoustic torpedoes and 1 electric torpedo left and the starboard coupling has sustained damage). U 83 and U 573 are being maintained in the disposition off Alexandria. U 83 was told to concentrate on the northern route and U 573 on the western route. It is intended to let these two boats operate in

these positions right through the new moon period.
"Thiessenhausen" reported that a rescued Italian airoraft crew claims to have torpedoed a "Cairo" class cruiser. An

torpedoed a "Cairo" class cruiser. An explosion was observed from the boat about 20 miles away.

V. ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

17 February 1942

- I. a) U 83 CO 7240, U 81 CO 9350, U 573 CO 7190, U 331 CO 5930, U 559 CO 2865, U 561 CO 1382.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: west of Sicily, southeast and southwest of Sicily in the morning.
 - b) German reconnaissance: reconnaissance in the forenoon and afternoon off Cyronaica, sea area around Malta and convoy route. Special reconnaissance in the operational areas of the boats in the afternoon.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 0800 CO 2688 l submarine, course 90°. 1342 CO 7279 l freighter, 2000-8000 tons, course 275°, speca lo knots.
 - c), d) ./.
- IV. U 83 (Kraus) reported that the reloading gear is out of order and that the last four torpedoes can only be used under certain conditions.

 U 331 (Thiessenhausen) ran aground at 2130 in poor visibility while proceeding at slow speed.

 At 0610 "Thiessenhausen" reported: "Am afloat again and returning."

 "Heidtmann" has passed 350 N.

18 February 1942

- I. a) U 83 CP 7240, U 81 CO 9350, U 573 CP 7190, U 331 CO 5980, U 559 CO 5990, U 561 CK 7280.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: west, south and southeast of Sicily in the forenoon and afternoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the areas of Crete and Cyrenaica in the forenoon and afternoon. Patrol of the Dardanelles.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

1450 CO 9372 3 freighters, 1 small tanker, easterly course, moderate speed.

1451 CO 9256 1 medium-sized merchant ship, westerly course, moderate speed.

Photographic reconnaissance of Alexandria showed the presence of 36 freighters.

- c) Italian radio intercept service:

 The convoy "Canon" was attacked by aircraft in CO 9371.
- d) ./.
- IV. ./.
- V. ./.

19 February 1942

- I. a) U 83 CP 7240, U 81 CO 9350, U 331 CO 2678, U 559 CO 5990, U 561 CJ 6621, U 573 CP 7190.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian air reconnaissance: west, south and southeast of Sicily.

German air reconnaissance: west of Sicily, inshore waters between 25° and 28° E.

III. a) ./.

- b) German air reconnaissance:
 - 0910 00 6774 3 small freighters, 3 light naval units.
 0945 CO 9213 1 tanker, 1 medium-sized freighter, easterly course, moderate speed.
 1400 CO 6782 3 large freighters, 3 small naval vessels, course 1400, moderate speed.
- c) 0951 CO 9150 convoy "Krosit" sighted by aircraft. (British report).
- d) ./.
- IV. U 83 (Kraus) and U 573 (Heinsohn) reported on
 the situation: Very little westbound traffic
 during the day, no traffic at night, strong
 patrols and anti-submarine sweeps.
 "Kraus" is looking for opportunities to
 attack under the coast. (Four torpedoes only
 partially serviceable).

20 February 1942

- I. a) U 81 CO 9350, U 83 CP 7240, U 331 CK 8975, U 561 CJ 2636, U 559 CO 5990, U 573 CP 7190.
 - b) U 561 put in to Pola at 1345.
- II. a) Italian air reconnaissance: west, south and southeast of Sicily.

 German air reconnaissance: inshore waters reconnaissance between 23° and 28° E, also west of Sicily.
- III. a) Italian Navy:

 1400 CK 7227 enemy submarine.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

 0945 CO 9124 small freighter beached.
 c), d) ./.
- IV. "Kraus" reported that his torpedoe's will be serviceable for about two days for short-range attacks.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 331 CO 2316, U 559 CO 5990, U 83 CO 9340, U 573 CP 7270.
 - b) U 565 put out from Spezia at 1600. U 652 put out from Salamis at 2000.
- II. a) German air reconnaissance: south, southeast of Malta.
 - b) German air reconnaissance: inshore waters reconnaissance between 17° 30' E and 27° E.

- III. a) U 83: 0300 CO 9256 2 destroyers, 3 merchant ships.
 - b) Italian air reconnaissance:

1045 CP 7273 2 destroyers. 1035 CP 7149 1 steamer of 1000-3000 GRT. 0830 CJ 4375 1 submarine.

- c), d) ./.
- IV. U 83 (Kraus) reported at 0341 that he had attacked the convoy he reported at 0300. He was forced off after the attack, did not again make contact and requested permission to return, having expended all his torpedoes.
- V. a) "Kraus": 2 hits on steamer and destroyer.

 "Heidtmann": fired 2 finishing shots at the steamer which had run aground and was spotted by German air reconnaissance on

20 February. He reported: Beached steamer with 2 funnels, 4000 GRT, half capsized after 2 finishing shots.

b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

22 February 1942

- I. a) U 83 CO 9216, U 81 CO 9350, U 573 CO 7150, U 565 CJ 5458, U 559 CO 6750, U 652 CO 2640.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian air reconnaissance:)
 German air reconnaissance:)

In the forenoon and afternoon reconnaissance of the whole of the Mediterranean south of Majorca, Sardinia, Sicily and Crete as far as Alexandria and along the African coast as far as Algiers.

III. a) ./.

b) German air reconnaissance:

0940 CO 6872 3 destroyers, 3 freighters, westerly course.

Italian air reconnaissance:

1020 CO 9217 1 heavy cruiser, 3
destroyers, westerly
course, speed 18 knots.
1020 CO 9218 1 destroyer, 1 ship at
anchor.

German air reconnaissance:

0135 CO 6788 1 light cruiser, 2
destroyers, 1 escort vessel,
2 medium-sized merchant
ships, westerly course.
1415 CO 6785 damaged merchant ship.
1430 CO 6971 1 freighter of 2000-3000
GRT, course 280°, high
speed.

c), d) ./.

IV. The ships will be formed into a loose disposition in the area between Tobruk and Alexandria after the new moon. The attack areas are as follows: "Heinsohn" the area south of CP 7125 east of CO 9334 west of CP 7125 "Heidtmann" the area south of CO 6737 east of CO 6771 west of CO 6737 "Guggenberger" will operate in the area off Mersa Matruh. "Fraatz" will operate in Point "Z" area off Tobruk. "Heidtmann" was requested to send a situation report and twice reported traffic close under the coast. Nothing sighted during the night.

V. a), b). ./.

23 February 1942

- I. a) U 83 CO 9216, U 81 CO 6978, U 573 CP 7157, U 565 CJ 9421, U 559 CO 6785, U 652 CO 5652.
 - b) U 565 put in to Messina at 1805.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: the whole of the Mediterranean between 10° and 29° E in the forenoon and afternoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance: the whole of the Mediterranean between 10° and 29° E in the forenoon and afternoon.

III. a) ./.

b) Italian air reconnaissance:

1015 CP 7226 5 destroyers, 2 medium-sized merchant ships.

German air reconnaissance:

1115 CO 9359 4 small merchant ships at anchor, 3 guardboats.
1310 2 small merchant ships putting out from Tobruk.
1433 CP 7196 2 destroyers, 1 medium-sized merchant ship.
CP 7271 1 destroyer.

c), d) ./.

- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. Nothing to report.

24 February 1942

- I. a) U 652 CO 5961, U 81 CO 9226, U 573 CP 7157, U 559 CO 6785.
 - b) U 83 put in to Salamis at 0845.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: sea area(s) Sicily, Tripoli.
 - b) German reconnaissance: inshore waters reconnaissance between 19° and 28° E.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) Italian air reconnaissance: 1430 CJ 8894 l submarine.

German air reconnaissance:

1000 CO 6795 2 medium-sized merchant ships.
1023 CO 9163 2 destroyers, 1 small merchant ship, 2 fighters.

- c) 1000 CO 9317 auxiliary ship reported:
 "Am being attacked by enemy aircraft."
- d) ./.
- IV. Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U·652 CO 5961, U 81 CO 6497, U 573 CP 7157, U 559 CO 5375.
 - b) U 331 put out from Salomis at 0800. U 565 put out from Messina at 1610.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: west, southwest of Sicily.
 - b) German reconnaissance: West, southwest of Sicily.

- III. a) U 652: 1740 CO 6772 2 steamers, 2 escort vessels.
 - b) Italian air reconnaissance:
 1200 CN 2195 1 merchant ship, 3000 tons.
 - c), d) ./.
- IV. U 652 (Fraatz) at 1740 made contact with an eastbound convoy consisting of 2 steamers and 2 escort vessels.

 At 2000 the boat lost contact, pursued the convoy until 0350, and then took up his previous position (Point "Z" off Tobruk).

 U 573 (Heinsohn) operated on the convoy reported by "Fraatz", but apparently did not gain contact.
- V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch,

- I. a) U 652 CO 5961, U 81 CO 2776, U 573 CP 7157, U 565 CO 1415, U 331 CO 1136.
 - b) U 559 made fast at Salamis at 0800.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) German reconnaissance: west of Sicily as far as 6° E, east of Sicily as far as Malta. Inshore waters between Alexandria and Tobruk.
- III. a) U 652: 0302 CO 6772 convoy. 0601 CO 5992 2 steamers.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

 1133 CO 9395 2 medium-sized merchant ships,
 2 destroyers.
 - c) Italian radio intelligence:
 0947 CP 7148 convoy "Rivet".
 German radio intelligence:
 1150 CP 7182 convoy "Rivet".
 - d) ./.

- IV. U 652 (Fraatz) gained contact at 0300 with a westbound convoy in CO 6772. At 0600 the convoy was again reported. It was in CO 6772 and consisted of 2 steamers and 5 escort vessels making for Tobruk at low speed. After unsuccessful attacks (pistol failure, end of run detonator, and a misfired fan) "Fraatz" started the return passage to Salamis. Fliegerfuehrer Africa reported at 0755 that the convoy reported by "Fraatz" was putting in to Tobruk.
- V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 652 CO 5960, U 81 CO 1460, U 573 CP 7150, U 565 CO 4320, U 331 Messina.
 - b) U 331 passed Messina at 0940.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance:
 - b) German reconnaissance: west of Sicily, Malta area, south of Crete in the forenoon and afternoon.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:
 - 1040 CO 5965 2 medium-sized freighters, course 90°, moderate speed.
 - c) British aircraft transmitted the following from CO 9355 at 2122: "Am over an enemy U-boat". One hour later: "Boat submerged on a northwesterly course". (Probably U 573).
 - d) At 0300 the "Malaya" with the "Eagle", "Argus", destroyers and cruisers put out from Gibraltar for the east.

- IV. U 565 (Jebsen) has been allocated Point "Z" as his operational area off Tobruk. "Heinsohn" was given freedom of action in the U-boat operational area.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) U 577 (Schaumburg) is reported missing for the first time, with effect from 16 January 1942.

 The boat put out from Messina on 7 January, reported his position on 7 January. No news since. Probably sank a destroyer on 13 January. (See War Diary of 16 January, 17 January, 19 January).

(Signed) Kreisch.

28 February 1942

- I. a) U 652 CO 2839, U 81 CO 1418, U 565 CO 5940, U 573 CO 9220, U 331 CJ 5458.
 - b) U 331 put in to Spezia at 1900.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance:
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon west of Sicily between 40° N and . Africa as far as 1° E. Armed reconnaissance in Benghazi/Alexandria sea area.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:
 0950 CO 9347 3 destroyers, easterly course.
 - c) ./.
 - d) 2200 the "Malaya", "Eagle" and a "Dido" class cruiser with a destroyer put in to Gibraltar.

Italian Navy: 1920 CJ 5696 l submarine.
0140 CK 7683 l submarine.

"Thiessenhausen" put in to Spezia. "Fraatz" put in to Salamis.

- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. a), b) ./.

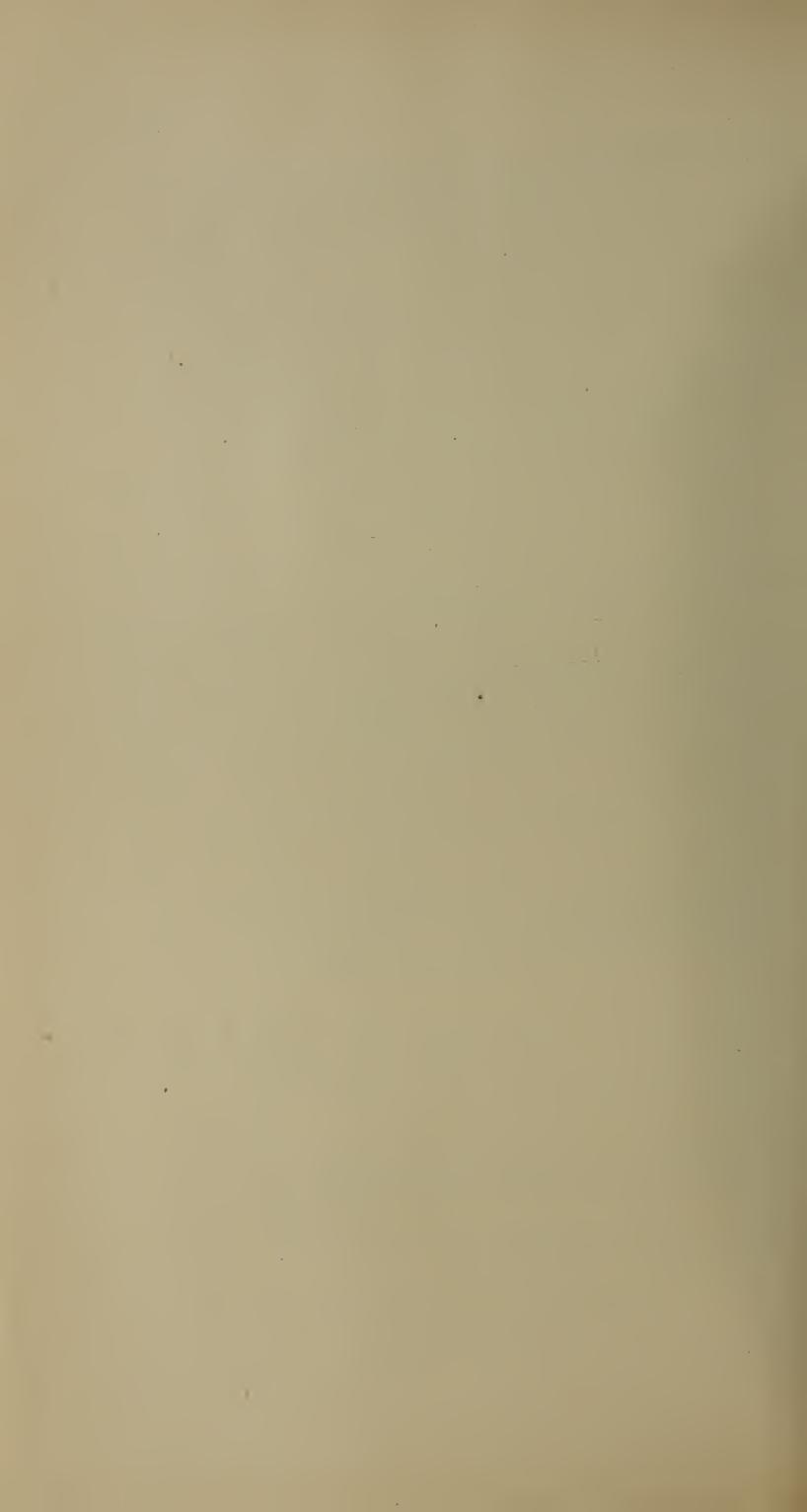
WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

1 - 15 MARCH, 1942

PG/30924



1 March, 1942

- I. a) U 81 CJ 9891, U 573 CO 6795, U 565 CO 5992.
 - b) U 652 put in to Salamis at 0900. U 81 put in to Messina at 1530. U 81 put out from Messina at 2000.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: west of Sardinia and Corsica north of 400 N, southeast of Malta.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon west of Sicily, Malta.
- III. a) U 573: M.T.B.s in CO 9373 at dusk. l destroyer at 0630 in CO 9211.
 - b), c), d) ./.
- IV. U 573 (Heinsohn) commenced the return voyage and reported situation: aircraft day and night, antisubmarine sweeps in the east. M.T.B.s in CO 9373 at dusk. 0630/l March 9211 l destroyer, easterly course, otherwise no traffic. Otherwise nothing to report.
- V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

2 March, 1942

- I. a) U 81 CJ 9415, U 573 CO 6755, U 565 CO 5992.
 - b) U 568 put out from Spezia at 1000.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) German reconnaissance: sea area around Malta, inshore waters from 23° to 27° E.
- III. a), b) ./.
 - c) 1153 convoy in Ras el Kanais area.
 - d) ./.
- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. ./.
- VI. ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

3 March, 1942

- I. a) U 81 CJ 5739, U 573 CO 2793, U 568 CJ 5739, U 565 CO 5992.
 - b) Sea area west of Sardinia and Corsica north of 40° N, in the Sicilian Channel, southeast of Malta.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance:
 - b) German reconnaissance: sea reconnaissance, sea area around Malta, coastal area between 22° and 29° E.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 0915 CJ 9495 1 submarine.
 0935 CO 9234 1 destroyer, 3 guardboats, 1 mediumsized and 1 small merchant ship, westerly course, speed slight.
 - c), d) ./.
- IV. U 565 is permitted freedom of action in U-boat operational area.
- V. ./.
- VI. ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

4 March, 1942

- I. a) U 568 CJ 9588, U 573 CK 7829, U 565 CO 5992.
 - b) U 81 put in to Spezia at 0915.
 U 371 put out from Salamis at 1630.
 U 559 put out from Salamis at 1630.
 U 568 put in to Messina at 1030.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: ./.
 - b) German reconnaissance: inshore waters from 25° to 29° E, sea reconnaissance in the vicinity of Alexandria, Sicily and Benghazi.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 0930 CO 5989 1 destroyer, course 215°, high speed. 1110 CO 5998 5 destroyers, 3 merchant ships, 3 fighters as escorts, course 90°.
 - c), d) ./.

- IV. U 559 has been detailed to Point Z off Tobruk as his operational area,
 U 371 the area CO 6750 and 60 and south of it,
 U 565 the area CO 92.
- v. ./.

VI. ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

5 March, 1942

- I. a) U 568 Messina, U 371 CO 2830, U 573 CJ 3840, U 565 CO 9130, U 559 CO 2830.
 - .b) U 568 put out from Messina at 1805.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon in the area west and southwest of Sicily.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon western convoy route, area round Malta, armed reconnaissance off the African coast from 25° to 30° E.
- III. a) U 565: 0445 CO 6797 convoy, 4 destroyers, course 2700, high speed.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

1025 4 medium-sized freighters, 2 destroyers put out from Alexandria.

Italian air reconnaissance:

- 1245 CO 9348 2 medium-sized freighters, 5 destroyers, course 1050, speed 8 knots.
- c) British unit reported off Ras Assaz at 1252 aircraft shadowing Group "Silent".
- d) ./.
- IV. U 568 received grid square CO as his attack area.
- V. ./.
- VI. ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

6 March, 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 1452, U 371 CO 6719, U 565 CO 9130, U 559 CO 5990.
 - b) U 573 put in to Spezia at 0915 from grid square CJ.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon west and southwest of Sicily.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon in the area 20° 30° along the African coast, area around Malta.

III. a) ./.

b) German air reconnaissance:

0710 CO 9122 2 destroyers, westerly course.

0825 CP 7276 2 light cruisers (?), 4 destroyers (?), 2 merchant ships, course 1200.

Italian air reconnaissance:

1350 CP 7288 l cruiser, 2 auxiliary cruisers, coursc 00, speed 12 knots.

- c) ./.
- d) Italian agent: 0420 the "Malaya", "Eagle" and "Argus" put out from Gibraltar.
- IV. With reference to the question of U-boat operations in the coming new moon period on the basis of probable operational readiness, about 9 U-boats may be counted on to be in the operational area in the new moon period in March.

Originally it was intended to use this new moon period for a surprise attack by several U-boats in the Eastern Mediterranean. The plan was

- (1) One U-boat to break in to the unprotected or only partially protected roads of the main ports in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- (2) To mine the approaches to these ports with ground mines.
- (3) Finally a short operation against traffic in this area.

The Flag Officer Commanding German Naval Command, Italy, had at the time expressed agreement to the principle of this plan; with reference to the date, however, he has reserved his decision, as it depends

on how the whole war situation develops.

Meanwhile the necessary preparations were to
be made. This has been done as far as possible.

The following information on these ports, apart from the treatise "Foreign Navies", is available:

- (1) The approach routes to these ports, learned from captured material, providing such routes exist.
- (2) A collection of all radio intercept reports and agents' reports concerning this area relevant to this operation.
- (3) Aerial photographs of the ports and roads. This information has confirmed the belief that an operation of this nature is valuable and can be carried out on not necessarily too large a scale.

With regard to the readiness of mines, difficulties have arisen, as technical defects in the mines have become known as a result of new information. In certain circumstances the removal of these defects may take so long that the mines may not be ready in time for the new moon period in March. Further, the operational readiness of several U-boats has been so delayed so that there was little or no margin left for the execution of the operation. This situation was put before Flag Officer Commanding German Naval Command. He has decided that the operation will be postponed for 4 weeks.

The reasons for this were:

- (1) The uncertainty as to whether the operation was even possible in view of the situation given above.
- (2) The consideration that such an operation can only be carried out once, and therefore ought to be tackled only if the requirements for success are as nearly as possible fulfilled. (Pencil note in margin: also Nava'l War Staff's view.)
- (3) The general war situation, in view of other impending operations (Malta), seemed to make the concentration of all U-boats in the present operational area appear desirable and even necessary because of the definite signs of impending large-scale enemy activity. It was decided to operate all U-boats in the Alexandria Tobruk area in the coming new moon period.

Here the following possibilities arise:

- (1) Area of concentration off Alexandria.
- (2) Area of concentration off Tobruk.
- (3) Division of U-boats into two areas of concentration off the ports named.
- (4) Concentration of U-boats on the Alexandria Tobruk route. As in this case they would be operating in a more open area where the enemy has certain opportunities of altering his route, the basic requirement for success is a sufficiently large number of U-boats.

The target is a) to find the enemy,
b) to be able to attack him
with a fairly large number of
U-boats.

With a probable total of 9 boats ready to operate this distribution would appear to be worth-while.

The particular advantages are:

- (a) Greater mobility as they are far from the bases.
- (b) A better opportunity of utilizing the results of air reconnaissance as a result.
- (c) The possibility of pursuing the enemy on westerly as well as easterly courses.

(Signed) Oehrn.

7 March, 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 5150, U 371 CO 6750, U 565 CO 9250, U 559 CO 5990.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon west of Sicily.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon west of Sicily as far as 2° 30' E, on the convoy route, along the African coast between 19° 30' and 27° E.
- III. a) U 565: 0452 CO 9264 3 destroyers, easterly course, speed 18 knots.

b) German air reconnaissance:

0755 CO 5143 1 submarine, course 120°.

0825 off Tobruk 2 medium-sized freighters, 2 destroyers.

1030 l freighter, 3 destroyers put out from 'Tobruk.

French aircraft spotted Force H in the Western Mediterranean, contacted later by German and Italian aircraft in CH 9415 at 1125. At 1410 a formation was spotted in CH 9487 on a westerly course, and was reported continuously until 1650.

c), d) ./.

IV. Nothing to report.

V. ./.

VI. ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

8 March, 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 6711, U 371 CO 6750, U 559 CO 5990, U 565 CO 9250.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon west and southwest of Sicily.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon area around Malta, along the African coast from 19° 30' to 27° E and on the convoy route.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

0850 CO 9348 3 freighters, 2 destroyers, course 150°, high speed.

c), d) ./.

IV. Nothing to report.

V. ./.

VI. ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

9 March, 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9320, U 371 CO 6750, U 559 CO 5990, U 565 CO 9220.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon, convoy route.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon, corvoy route.
- III. a), b), c), d) ./.
- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. ./.
- VI. ./.

(Signed) Ochrn.

10 March, 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9350, U 371 CO 6760, U 559 CO 5990, U 565 CO 9230, U 83 CO 2640.
 - b) U 83 put out from Salamis at 1700
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: of the convoy route in the morning and afternoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance: the same and armed reconnaissance along the coast of Cyrenaica.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:
 - 1100 CO 9310 warship formation, course 2900, speed 20 22 knots.
 - 1330 CK 8956 l submarine.
 - 1622 CJ 9991 1 submarine.
 - 1400 CP 7185 3 medium-sized froighters, 1 destroyer, 3 torpedoboats, course 2800.

Italian Navy:

1000 CN 2826 1 submarine.

1158 CK 7443 1 submarine.

1745 CK 7176 1 submarine.

1807 CK 7441 1 submarine.

1845 CN 2824 1 submarine, course 80°.

- c) British aircraft reported sighting a U-boat at 2247 in CO 9341, course 300°. The same aircraft reported at 0400, "Have attacked U-boat".
- d) ./.
- IV. U 565 (Jebsen) reported at 2255, "Bombs in CO 9238, no damage".
 Otherwise nothing to report.
- V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

11 March, 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9350, U 371 CO 6760, U 559 U 565 U 83 CO 2640.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon west and southwest of Sicily.

 Central Mediterranean north of 34° N.

 South of Crete as far as the Derna Mersa

 Matruh coast.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon between 25° and 30° E, sea area around Malta.
- III. a) U 371: 1800 CO 6765 formation on hydrophone bearing, course 100°, high speed.
 - U 565: CO 9221 2 probable hits on cruiser.

b) German air reconnaissance:

0850 CO 5243 4 cruisers, 6 destroyers, 3 escort vessels, course 110°, high speed.

1120 CO 5293 same formation, course 110°.

1235 CO 5382 same formation.

1330 CO 5384 same formation, course 110° .

1535 CO 6441 same formation.

1712 CO 6726 same formation.

1735 CO 6752 same formation.

1755 CO 6762 same formation.

1815 CO 6844 same formation.

0910 CO 9348 l medium-sized merchant ship, easterly course, speed slight.

Italian Navy:

1345 CK 7213 1 submarine.

c), d) ./.

IV. The U-boats were detailed to operate on the warship formation spotted by air reconnaissance. At 1800 U 371 (Driver) took a hydrophone bearing on the formation and reported it on a course of 110°, high speed.

U 565 (Jebsen) made an attack in 9221, presumably on the warship formation.

The remaining boats apparently did not make contact.

U 565 has commenced the return voyage because the Commander has eye trouble.

- V. a) Reported: CO 9221 two probable hits on cruiser.
 - b) ./.
- VI. a) ./.
 - b) Captain U-boats, Captain Kreisch, has gone on a duty trip to Lorient until the beginning of April.

 Deputy: Commander Oehrn.

(Signed) Oehrn.

12 March, 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9350, U 371 CO 6780, U 559 CO 5930, U 565 CO 5690, U 83 CO 5930.
 - b) U 652 put out from Salamis at 1700.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon west and southwest of Sicily, southeast of Sicily.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon between Crete North Africa and 25° to 29° E. On the African coast between 23° and 25° E. Malta sea area.
- III. a) U 371: 2332 CO 6798 4 destroyers, course 110°, speed 17 knots.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

0855 CO 7183 2 destroyers, course 150°, high speed.

0935 CO 5996 3 freighters, 3 escort vessels, course 90°.

1040 CO 9255 small warship, course 150°, high speed.

Italian Navy:

0755 CO 3144 l submarine.

- c) About 2100 British formation proceeding from Malta to Alexandria sent 3 short operational radio messages to C-in-C Mediterranean Fleet, probably referring to rendezvous with submarines. (Italian radio intercept report.)
- d) ./.
- IV. U 371 (Driver) reported from CO 6798, course 110°, speed 17 knots.
 U 83 (Kraus) has turned over a spare part to U 559 (Heidtmann).
 U 568 (Preuss) reported strong air patrols in CO 93, bombs at night. The U-boat has only tubes 1, 2 and 5 in action without supply feed.
- V. a) U 565 (Jebsen) was requested to give more details about the torpedoing of the cruiser. The following signal was received:

Yesterday at 1959 fan of four fired at 1800 meters range at a fairly large unknown unit,

probably the "Leander". After alarm, 2 hits definitely heard. Loud sinking noises from 30 to 40 minutes after firing. 4 hours of depth charge and location pursuit. My position (?) CO 5696. To Captain U-boats from Jebsen.

b) ./.

(Signed) Oehrn.

13 March, 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9350, U 371 CO 6750, U 559 CO 8220, U 565 CO 5130, U 83 CO 6780, U 652 CO 5320.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon west and southwest of Sicily.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon between 25° and 30° E and Crete African coast. West of Sicily as far as radius of action allowed. Area around Malta.

III. a) ./.

b) German air reconnaissance:

0905 CO 9373 2 destroyers, 2 small warships, 1 medium-sized, 1 small freighter.

Italian Navy:

1440 CO 4889 1 submarine.

1500 CN 2739 1 submarine.

- c) The Italian radio intercept service suspects that the radio messages of 2113 and 2344 to Command of Mediterranean Fleet and of 0317 to Royal Navy, Tobruk referred to the torpedoing at 2030 by U 565.
- d) ./.
- IV. U 83 (Kraus) torpedoed 1 steamer in CO 6797.
- V. a) U 83 at 0519 reported steamer torpedoed in CO 6797. Finishing shot gyro-angle failure. Sinking not observed because of anti-submarine measures. Easterly course, speed slight.

b) C-in-C U-boats transmitted the names of 30 U-boat survivors who are now prisoners of war. They are members of the crew of U 79?.

(Signed) Oehrn.,

14 March, 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9350, U 371 CO 6750, U 559 CO 9220, U 565 CO 1810, U 83 CO 5990.
 - b) U 133 put out from Salamis at 1700. U 97 put out from Spezia at 1745.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon west and southwest of Sicily.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon between 25° and 30° E. Crete and African coast, off Tobruk, straits south of Sardinia to the west. Photographic reconnaissance of Alexandria.

III. a) ./.

b) German air reconnaissance:

0730 CO 6798 4 vessels, southeasterly course.

0830 off Alexandria l large, 2 medium-sized freighters, 3 or 4 torpedoboats stopped.

Italian Navy:

0910 CO 3753 1 submarine.

1220 CO 3839 1 submarine.

1322 CO 9687 1 submarine.

- c) ./.
- d) The "Malaya" out of dock.
- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. U 133 (Mohr) put out from Salamis at 1700 on 14 March. The following radio message from S.O. 23rd U-boat Flotilla was received at 2208:

"Captain U-boats from 23rd U-boat Flotilla. Most Secret Ops. 1354.

1900 U 133 hit a mine and sank. Scene of accident 1000 meters from Cape Turlo. 2 escort vessels at place of accident."

For further details see files of U 133 with Captain U-boats, Italy.

(Signed) Oehrn.

15 March, 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9350, U 371 CO 6750, U 559 CO 9220, U 565 CJ 9820, U 83 CO 5990, U 97 CJ 5486.
 - b) U 565 put in to Messina at 0900, put out at 1800.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon west and southwest of Sicily.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon between Africa, Crete, 25° and 30° E. Along African coast between 23° and 25° E.

III. a) ./.

b) German air reconnaissance:

0921 CP 7267 2 large freighters, 1 guardboat, course 220°, moderate speed.

Italian air reconnaissance:

0925 CN 2829 l submarine.

Italian Navy:

1055 CO 3753 1 subnarine.

2002 CJ 7919 1 submarine. ..

0115 CJ 9979 1 submarine.

- c) "Cooly" convoy in CO 9349 at 0843 according to the Italian radio intercept service.
- d) ./.
- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Ochrn.

Comments

of the Flag Officer German Naval Command on the War Diary of Captain U-boats Italy

from 1 - 31 March 1942.

- 1) With regard to the execution of the operation ordered, there are no remarks.
- 2) The proportion of boats in the operational area to those in port was highly unsatisfactory during March also. In addition to the general factors determining this proportion which have been dealt with separately, the following had an unfavorable effect during March:
 - 1) Illnesses of Commanders which led to the cessation of operations or to serious delays in putting out: absence of the Commanders of U 565 and U 205 owing to nightblindness, of the Commander of U 371 owing to eye trouble and of the Commander of U 371 owing to general exhaustion.
 - 2) Loss of U 133 whilst putting out to sea.
 - 3) Damage to U 372 whilst putting out to sea.
 - 4) Serious damage inflicted by a bombing attack on U 73 and U 97 after only a short period in the operational area.

(Signed) Weichold.

War Diary

Captain U-boats Italy

The War Diary of Captain U-boats, Italy contains in the daily entries the events from 0800 on the current day to 0800 on the following.

Contents

- I. a) Daily positions according to naval grid squares. If positions are exact, i.e. base on signals etc, they are underlined.
 - b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800.

II. Air reconnaissance:

- a) Western Mediterranean.
- b) Eastern Mediterranean.

 Limit is the line from Cape Bon to Sicily.

III. Reports on the enemy:

- a) By U-boats.
- b) Bý air reconnaissance.
- c) By radio intercept service.
- d) By G.I.S. stations.
- e) By naval forces.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

- V. a) Successes.
 - b) Losses.

VI. General situation:

- a) Operations.
- b) Bases etc.

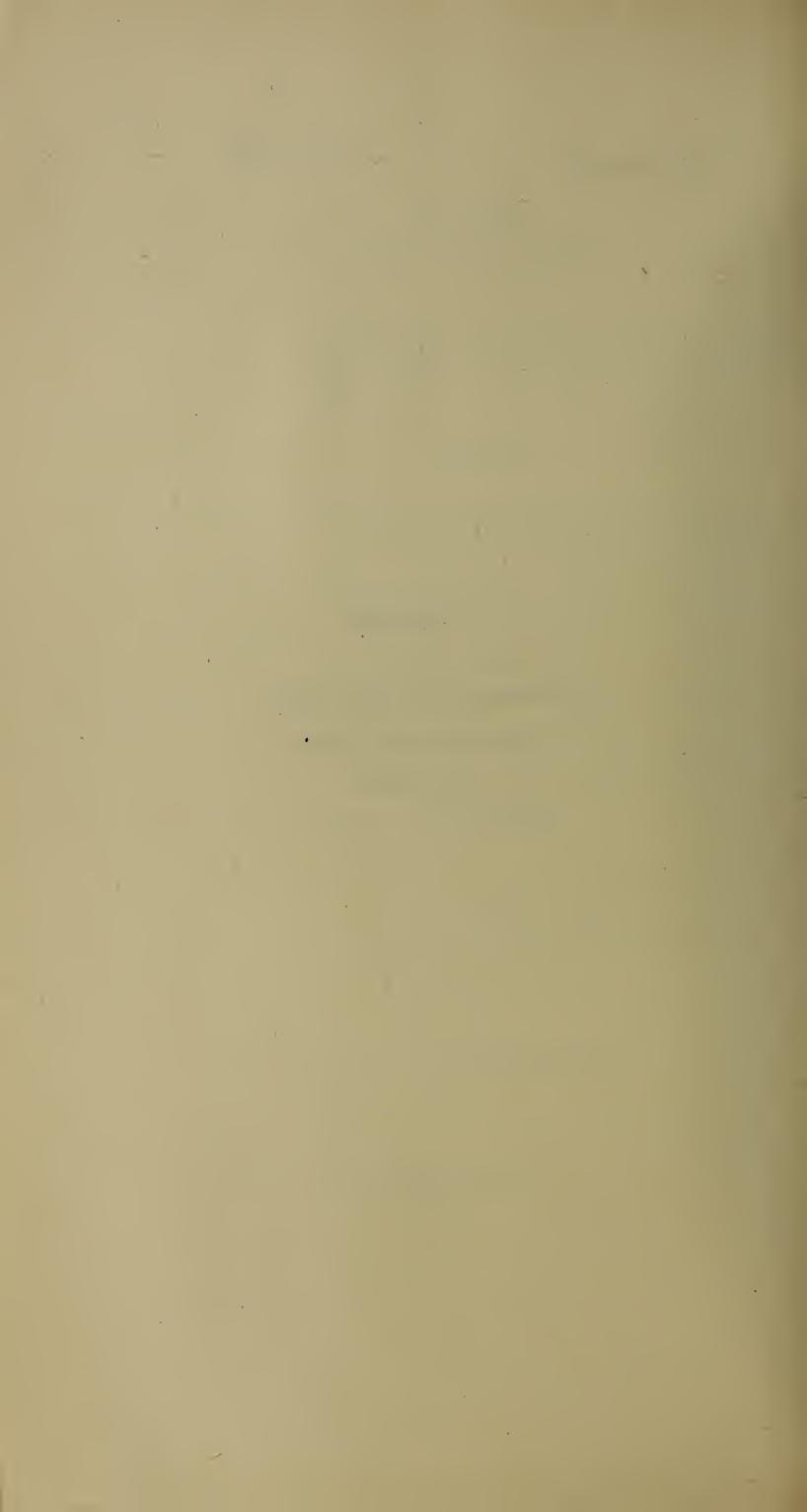
WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

16 - 31 MARCH, 1942

PG/30924



16 March 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9350, U 371 CO 6750, U 559 CO 9920, U 565 CJ 8320, U 83 CO 5990, U 97 CJ 9570.
 - b) U 372 put out from Spezia at 1630, put in at 1830.
 U 73 put out from Spezia at 1730.
 U 97 put in to Messina at 1300.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: convoy route, in the forenoon and afternoon.

German reconnaissance: between 190 30' and 270 E, Crete and Africa, sea area around Malta, forenoon and afternoon.

- III. a) U 565: 1207 CJ 9942 periscope sighted.
 - b) 1325 CP 7195 2 medium-sized freighters, 5 patrol vessels, north-westerly course, moderate speed, sighted by German air reconnaissance.

Italian Navy: 1710 CJ 9942 l submarine.

c), d) ./.

IV. At Point "Z" off Tobruk, "Kraus" reported no traffic and suspected that enemy supplies were being carried in hospital ships. It is intended to operate the boats on the Alexandria-Tobruk route during the new moon period. Concentration in the west.

2 boats will carry out a sortie during the night of the 17/18 March parallel to the approach route Point "Z" - Tobruk.

1 boat has been given freedom of action in CO 6780, 6790, 9120, 9130.

The fourth boat is operating to the west in a sector 30 miles wide, parallel to the coast. It is intended to bring this boat up to the concentration area during the night of 18/19 March.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

1. 1.

17 March 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9350, U 371 CO 6750, U 559 CO 9220, U 83 CO 5990, U 73 CJ 5420, U 97 Messina.
 - b) U 205 put out from Spezia at 1700. U 565 put in to Spezia at 1015. U 97 put out from Messina at 1840.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: convoy route in the forenoon and afternoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance: convoy route between 30° and 27° E, Crete and Africa in the forenoon and afternoon.
- III. a) U 83: 1907 CO 6789 convoy, northwesterly course.

 2114 CO 6779 convoy, course 2900, speed 9 knots.

 2215 CO 6778 convoy.

 2317 CO 6775 convoy.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

0725 CJ 9886 2 enemy submarines. 0820 1 torpedoboat, putting out from Tobruk. 0900 CO 6856 2 freighters, 3 destroyers, 1 M.T.B., westerly course.

Italian air reconnaissance:

0916 CP 7249 3 freighters, course 240°.

German air reconnaissance:

1550 CO 6798 the 0900 convoy.

Italian air reconnaissance:

1250 CN 2739 1 submarine.

Italian Navy: 1330 CJ 3941 1 submarine. 1635 CO 1797 1 submarine.

Italian air reconnaissance:

1708 CN 2739 1 submarine.

- c). ./.
- d) 0800 the "Argus", "Hermione", 3 destroyers and 2 gunboats put out from Gibraltar towards the east.

- IV. During the sortle ordered in the Tobruk direction, U 83 (Kraus) gained contact at 1907 with a convoy making for Tobruk (cf para.IIIa). It was obviously the convoy reported from the air at 0900 consisting of 1 steamer and 1 tanker, with an escort of 3 destroyers and 1 M.T.B. Apparently no other U-boats were operating on it. "Kraus" maintained excellent contact and sank the tanker, which he assessed at 6000 GRT.
- V. a) U 83: 1 tanker, 8000 GRT sunk in CO 6775.
 - b) In connection with the loss of U 133, S.O. 23rd U-boat Flotilla reported the following additional information: the boat definitely hit one of our own mines. The scene of the accident was in the region of our own minefields 4000 meters from Cape Turlo. Thus it is absolutely clear that the U-boat did not keep to his prescribed course. Investigations have been started as to why the boat left its course.

(Signed) Kreisch.

18 March 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9350, U 371 CO 6750, U 559 CO 9220, U 83 CO 5990, U 205 CJ 5410, U 73 Messina, U 97 CN 3320.
 - b) U 652 put out from Salamis at 1700. U 431 put out from Spezia at 1130.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: same as on 17 March.

German reconnaissance: same as on 17 March.

III. a) U 83: 1630 CO 6780 l tanker, 2 mediumsized freighters, 2 large naval vessels.

U 559: 1815 CO 6776 same convoy according to hydrophone bearings.

1930 CO 6787 U 568: same convoy according to hydrophone bearings. 2035 CO 6783 U 568: U 559: 2230 CO 9131 U 559: 2320 CO 9132 U 559: U 559: 0015 C0 9133 0145 C0 9133 1000. course U 83: 0402 CO 9219 course 1000, speed 8 knots.

b) German air reconnaissance:

0850 CO 6778 1 merchant ship on fire.

Italian air reconnaissance:

1000 CP 7284 1 medium-sized merchant ship, 2 destroyers, course 225°, speed 12 knots, also 2 freighters, course 60°, speed 10 knots.

German air reconnaissance:

1145 2 freighters, 1 tanker, 2 naval vessels putting out from Tobruk. 1745 CO 4925 1 submarine.

Italian Navy: 1900 CK 4719 1 submarine.

c), d) ./.

IV. Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

19 March 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 6790, U 371 CO 9220, U 559 CO 9220, U 652 CO 5340, U 83 CO 9220, U 205 CJ 8360, U 73 Messina, U 97 CO 1940, U 431 CJ 5730.
 - b) U 205 at 1020, U 73 at 0955 put in to Messina, put out at 2330.

- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: west in the forenoon, southwest of Sicily in the afternoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance: west and southwest of Sicily in the afternoon.
- III. a) U 568: 1930 CO 9327 4 vessels, westerly course, moderate speed. 0015 CO 9221 2 destroyers, U 371: westerly course, speed 11-17 knots. U 652: 0102 CO 6796 hydrophone bearings, bearing 1450, signal strength 1. 0221 CO 9211 convoy. U 652: 0331 CO 9134 convoy, course set for Sollum, moderate speed. U 652: 0403 CO 9162 convoy of mediumsized ships, 2 patrol vessels.
 - b), c) ./.
 - d) Italian Navy: 0900 CK 7214 1 submarine.
- IV. The boats are being allotted to new attack areas as follows: U 371 (Driver) CO 68 and 92, U 568 (Preuss) eastern half of CO 67 and 91, U 652 (Fraatz) western half,* U 97 (Heilmann) CO 9345. U 568 reported his position at 1740 by short signal from CO 9317. At 1930 he sighted a convoy in CO 9327 on a northwesterly course, moderate speed; lost contact then, but went in pursuit. U 371 and U 652 were ordered to operate on the convoy sighted by U 568 (Preuss). U 568 was ordered to provide more detailed particulars of the convoy. "Preuss" replied at 2359: "4 vessels distinguished. Moon and searchlights forced us to retire, convoy thus out of sight." At 0015 "Driver" reported sighting 2 enemy destroyers in 9221. The enemy was on a westerly course at moderate speed.
 U 652 reported at 0102 in CO 6796 hydrophone bearing 145° true, signal strength 1. At 0221 he reported the convoy in CO 9211. At 0331 "Fraatz" reported convoy in 9134, on course for Sollum, moderate speed. At 0403 "Fraatz" reported: "Enemy, apparently a medium-sized steamer with at least 2 escorts, lost to sight in spite of speed full ahead all out, because of sharp turn south or southeast. According to hydrophone bearing escort in 9162. No point in attempting to haul ahead."

20 March 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9180, U 371 CO 6850, U 559 CO 5550, U 652 CO 6740, U 83 CO 5350, U 205 CN 3330, U 73 CN 3320, U 73 CN 5520, U 431 Messina.
 - b) U 431 put in to Messina at 0845, put out at 1800.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: west and southwest of Sicily in the morning and afternoon.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon between 25° and 30° E, Crete and Africa, sea area around Malta.
- III. a) U 652: 1054 CO 6795 patrol formation of 5 units.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

0850 CO 9228 3 merchant ships, 2 destroyers, westerly course.

0900 CO 6872 the same convoy.

0915 CO 5969 1 medium-sized freighter, course 45°, moderate speed.

1050 CO 6793 convoy formation broken up, 1 destroyer torpedoed, stern under water.

1100 CP 7282 2 medium-sized freighters, 1 patrol vessel, course 240°, speed slight.

1115 CO 6793 convoy.

- c) According to radio intercept service, convoy was in CO 6768 at 1420.
- d) 0300 the "Malaya" with 2 aircraft carriers, cruisers and destroyers put out from Gibraltar towards the east. They were detected by air reconnaissance on an easterly course, at high speed, abreast of Oran.
- IV. The convoy spotted by the German Air Force (3 merchant ships and 2 destroyers) was successfully attacked by "Fraatz".
- V. a) "Fraatz" fired at a destroyer of the "Jervis" class and heard 1 hit. This attack was observed by the shadowing aircraft. "Fraatz" reported: "In 6795 at 1054 attacked patrol formation, 6 units, coming from the east.

Hit on a "Jervis" class destroyer heard clearly (identification "F" and the number of twin mountings). 79 depth charges in 6 hours. No damage, moving away for a short time, serial number 541 missing."

The following was reported from X Flieger-Korps: "Own sighting; 1050 in CO 6793 one destroyer belonging to the convoy torpedoed by a U-boat. 1115 destroyer's stern under water, convoy formation broken up."

It is assumed that the destroyer was sunk.

(Signed) Kreisch.

21 March 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9130, U 371 CO 6880, U 97 CO 9310, U 652 CO 6740, U 431 CO 1170, U 205 CO 1920, U 73 CO 1910.
 - b) U 83 put in to Salamis at 1100. U 559 Salamis at 1100.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon Majorca-Sardinia-Algiers-Cape Bougaroni area. In the forenoon southwest of Sicily, Benghazi-Malta area.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon 25° to 30° E, Crote to Africa, west of Sicily as far as radius of action allowed.

III. a) ./.

b) German air reconnaissance:

1658 CO 5345 14 units including 3 fairly large ones, course 280°.

Italian Navy:

1533 CH 7524 Force H, course 40°, speed
22 knots.

1630 CO 5373 1 cruiser, 4 destroyers, 3
steamers, 5000-10000 tons,
course 320°, speed 14 knots.

1745 CO 5345 an unidentified unit, course
305°.

c), d) ./.

IV. Towards 1800 an Italian U-boat reported sighting 1 cruiser, 4 destroyers and 3 merchant ships in CO 5373 at 1630, on course 3200, speed 14 knots. The boats proceeding to the operation area, U 73 (Rosenbaum), U 205 (Reschke) and U 431 (Dommes) were ordered to operate against the convoy and were requested to report their positions. According to his report, "Dommes" is ahead of the convoy. "Reschke", whose report was only received at 2046, is southeast of the convoy. "Reschke" and "Dommes" have been ordered to operate against the convoy at maximum speed; "Reschke" on a course of 2700, "Dommes" on a course of 280°. A position report has not yet been received from "Rosenbaum". To prevent the boats from meeting the Italian naval forces, which are to operate on the convoy, they have been ordered not to go further west than 190 E and in the case of no contact being made by dawn, they are to proceed to CO 51. Because U 73's transmitter was out of order his position report only came in at 0230. The boat lay so far behind the convoy that an operation would have been quite without hope of success. He has been ordered to proceed to CO 51. If the boats make no contact, it is planned to dispose them in CO 51 in waiting positions so that they can operate on the convoy should it abandon the intention of reaching Malta and make a diversion to the east instead, or at least to have them in a more favorable position to operate against the enemy naval forces which must return to Alexandria. Of the boats in the operational area U 371 (Driver) has been ordered to proceed to Salamis because the Commander is ill. U 568 (Preuss) requested permission to return because of damage to his boat. He received orders to remain in the operational area until the end of the operation against the Malta convoy.

V. a), b) ./.

22 March 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9130, U 371 CO 6841, U 97 CO 6750, U 652 CO 6740, U 431 CO 5110, U 205 CN 3330, U 73 CN 3320.
 - b) U 453 put out from Pola at 1700.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon the area east of Sicily as far as 20°E, southwest of Sicily and west of Sardinia as far as Majorca.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon the area around Malta between 25° and 30° E, Crete and Africa.

III. a) ./.

b) Force H at 1020 in CH 6754 on a westerly course was spotted from the air. Last reported at 2130 from CH 7651. Air reconnaissance made contact with the Malta convoy (according to photographic reconnaissance - 4 cruisers, 8 destroyers, 3 escort vessels, also probably a second group with 7 freighters and 6 escorts) at 0940 in CO 4283 on a westerly course, speed 14 knots, 1050 alteration of course to 330°. 1430 the Italian cruiser group made contact with 13 cruisers and 4 destroyers in CO 4431. The enemy was making off towards the south and at 1450 divided into 2 groups - 3 cruisers and 7 destroyers on a course of 2000, several destroyers and the merchant ships on a course of 300. The latter group was seen at 1610 on a southerly course. The last German aircraft shadower's report gave its position as CO 4473 at 1825. From 1900 onwards Italian air reconnaissance reports gave CO 4421, course 150, speed 14 knots, then at 1950, CN 6633, course 3150. Between 0725 and 0730 German air reconnaissance reported several units of the convoy off the south coast of Malta. After these followed only radio intercept reports of air attacks.

Italian Navy: 1320 CJ 3772 l submarine. 1725 CJ 9687 l submarine.

- c) According to radio intercept service the first British report of an encounter with the enemy came out at 1431. Further reports of the Italian units followed. At 0710 one of the escort units reported an aircraft shadower from CN 3735. A few reports from escort units of air attacks followed.
- d) ./.
- IV. At 0940 the Malta convoy was again spotted by an Italian aircraft. During the day Italian naval forces and German and Italian air forces made contact with the enemy.

 No diversion of the convoy to the east or a returning escort was detected. The waiting position of the 3 boats was moved 18 miles to the south.
- V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

23 March 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9130, U 371 C 5365, U 97 CO 6750, U 652 CO 6740, U 431 CO 5140, U 205 CO 5170, U 73 CO 5410, U 453 CJ 6230.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the foremoon and afternoon between Algiers and Loone-Majorca and Sicily. Off the Greater Syrte in the area 33° to 35° N and 14° and 16° E as well as in the inshore waters between 24° and 27° E. (West and southwest of Sicily).
 - b) German reconnaissance: Malta area, between 20° and 27° E, Crete and Africa in the forenoon and afternoon.
 - U 431: 1247 CO 5143 6 destroyers, easterly course, high speed.

III. a) U 371: .1900 CO 5631 enemy formation according to hydrophone bearing and gun flashes.

b) Between 0840 and 1002 parts of the Malta convoy were continually reported by the German Air Force.

German air reconnaissance identified the following returning escort forces:

0833 CO 4324 l cruiser, 5 smaller naval vessels.
1140 CO 5115 l cruiser, 5 smaller naval vessels, easterly course.

Italian U-boat:

1400 CO 5248 unidentifiable formation.

German air reconnaissance:

1425 CO 5168 2 cruisers, 5 destroyers, 2 unidentified ships.
1425 CO 5523 formation of 11 units.

Italian Navy:

1742 CJ 6993 l submarine. 2105 CJ 9356 l submarine.

- c) 1930 British reconnaissance aircraft reported from Egypt an enemy U-boat attack in CO 9318. In connection with this numerous operational radio messages were transmitted.
- d) Force H put in to Gibraltar at 0800.
- IV. The German Air Force again spotted the convoy off Malta.

 The boats U 431 (Dommes), U 205 (Reschke), U 73 (Rosenbaum) remained in the waiting position to intercept the returning escort forces. The first report on the escort forces bound for Alexandria came in at about 1400. According to it, the formation lay north of "Dommes"'s waiting position. With time of origin 1247, "Dommes" reported the formation in CO 5143. He did not make contact.

 The boats are to remain in their waiting positions, since it is not yet clear whether the formation is making for the east in several groups, and also an operation by these boats would have no prospect of success as the formation is already

lying to the east of them.

After the receipt of the first shadowers' reports the boats U 568 (Preuss), U 97 (Heilmann) and U 652 (Fraatz) were ordered to operate against the formation. By evening it was fairly safe to assume from information to hand, that the formation would follow the same route as that taken by the returning escort forces not long before. For these reasons, U 568, U 97 and U 652 have been ordered to take up the following positions:

U 568 CÔ 6736, U 97 CO 6848, U 652 CO 9222.

A more northerly disposition was not possible, because the boats could no longer reach these positions in time. U 431, U 205, U 73 are making for the northeast. They have not made contact. According to the radio interception report which came in to-day at 0747, we may conclude that the formation of escort forces passed north of the disposition.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

24 March 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 9130; U 371 CO 2640; U 97 CO 6750; U 652 CO 6740; U 431 CO 5670; U 205 CO 5910; U 73 CO 5910; U 453 CK 7270; U 559 Salamis; U 83 Salamis.
 - b) U 559, U 83 put out from Salamis at 0800, both put in to Patras at 1700, U 83 put to sea at 1845.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon west, southwest and southeast of Sicily.
 - b) German reconnaissance: inshore waters from 20° to 27° E with weak forces. In the forenoon and afternoon sea area around Malta.

- III. a) ./.
 - b) Italian Navy: 0945 CN 5243 1 submarine.
 - c) At 0747 on 24 March from CP 4775, the leading ship of the Malta convoy reported a bombing attack.
 - d) ./.
- IV. U 568, U 97 and U 652 will remain in their positions until the afternoon. They will then be ordered to occupy the following attack areas: "Reschke", "Rosenbaum", "Heilmann" and "Fraatz" area between the meridians of CO 6744 and of CO 6986 in north south lines of equal width.

 Northern boundary is the parallel of CO 6862. "Dommes" will occupy Point "Z" off Tobruk. "Preuss" will return to Spezia.
- V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

25 March 1942

- I. a) U 431 CO 5980, U 205 CO 6780, U 73 CO 6870, U 97 CO 9220, U 652 CO 9310, U 371 CO 2310, U 559 CK 8720, U 83 CK 7880, U 453 CO 1340, U 568 CO 6410.
 - b) U 73 put out from Messina at 1610. U 559 put out from Patras at 1530.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: same as on previous day.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon south of Sicily.
- III. a) U 652: 0001 CO 9265 convoy, course 2900, speed 11 knots.

 U 652: 0103 CO 9261 center convoy.

 U 652: 0202 CO 9252 convoy.

 U 205: 0420 CO 9215 convoy.

b) German air reconnaissance:

1027 CN 3491 1 freighter, course 300, speed 14 knots.

Italian Navy: 1440 CJ 3438 l submarine. 2338 CN 3287 l submarine.

- c) According to radio interception service there are 2 destroyers, smaller units and probably convoys also between Tobruk and Sidi Barrani.
- d) ./.
- IV. U 73 (Rosenbaum) has put in to Messina because of heavy damage sustained in a bombing attack. Because the radio set was out of order no report was given of return passage. "Heilmann" has taken over "Rosenbaum" s attack area, "Fraatz" has taken over "Heilmann" s. At 0001 "Fraatz" gained contact with a convoy in CO 9265, course 2900, speed 11 knots. After having made a successful attack, the boat was forced to withdraw. "Fraatz" regained contact and again successfully attacked the convoy. The boat has expended all its torpedoes except for one acoustic torpedo and has commenced return passage to Pola.
- V. a) During the first attack "Fraatz" sank one destroyer in CO 9229. During the second attack he sank a steamer of 5000 GRT in CO 9214.
 - b) ./.

26 March 1942

- I. a) U 73 CJ 8310,
 U 83 CJ 9850,
 U 559 CK 4870,
 U 568 CO 1990,
 U 453 CO 5180,
 U 431 CO 5990,
 U 97 CO 6760,
 U 205 CO 9130,
 U 652 CO 6880,
 - b) U 83 put in to Messina at 1030, put out to sea at 1745.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: same as on previous day.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon Crete-Tobruk-Sidi Barrani area.
- III. a) U 205: 0510/26 March CO 9215 1 tanker, 2 destroyers, course 90°.
 - b) German air reconnaissance;

0915 CO 9252 2 freighters, westerly course.
1050 CO 9242 2 freighters, easterly course, moderate speed.

Italian Navy:

0415 CO 5281 unknown unit, course 120°.

c) British aircraft:

1715 CO 5929 1 U-boat, course 2900, speed 10 knots.

In the Rinella broadcast between 1349 B 26 and 1920 B 26 tactical time, three operational radio messages were sent out for Alexandria, also addressed C-in-C Mediterranean. The last operational radio message was also addressed Communications Officer, Tobruk and Captain (Submarines I), presumably in connection with the successful German U-boat activity.

Rescue operations were directed from Mersa Matruh for the unit sunk out of the convoy on the night of 26 March. Patrol vessel 2 F.V.Z. reported at 0445/B 26 tactical time to Mersa Matruh, that 5 officers and 46 men had been rescued and that the search was being continued.

0732 "8 BJQ" (patrol vessel) reported to Admiral Alexandria that he had attacked a suspicious ship, otherwise no success in a radius of 5 miles. At 0810/26 the same patrol vessel reported: "Further search has proved unsuccessful. Am returning."

- IV. According to Italian radio intercept reports and after an air reconnaissance over Malta the possibility of warships putting out from Malta towards the east must be reckoned with.

 U 205 (Reschke) reported a successful attack on the convoy that he reported at 0420.
- V. a) "Reschke" reported: "Convoy easterly course, 1 tanker, 2 destroyers CO 9215; at 0510 hit on tanker, loud explosion. By dawn only destroyers to be seen. Was forced to withdraw and depth charged."
 - b) U 133 (Mohr) is reported missing for the second time with effect from 14 March 1942. The boat put out from Salamis on 14 March and hit a mine. There were no survivors.

(Signed) Kreisch.

27 March 1942

- I. a) U 97 CO 6760, U 205 CO 9120, U 431 CO 5990, U 652 CO 5430, U 453 CO 5160, U 568 CO 1590, U 83 CJ 9180, U 73 CJ 1390, U 559 CJ 3880.
 - b) U 73 put in to Spezia at 1030. U 559 put in to Pola at 1945.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: same as on previous day.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon North African inshore waters. Sea area around Malta.
- III. a) U 431: 1648 CO 9112 1 Sperrbrecher?
 3 small vessels,
 westerly course. One
 vessel on a southerly
 course.

b) German air reconnaissance:

0910 CO 5937 1 cruiser, 4 destroyers, easterly course. 0925 CN 3963 1 submarine. CP 7183 2 medium-sized, 2 large merchant ships, course 2400. 1510 CO 6858 the formation of 0910. 1535 CO 9122 1 cruiser, 3 destroyers, westerly course. 1545 CO 6883 the formation of 0910, course 900, speed 20 knots. 1710 CO 6893 2 destroyers, course 90°, speed 18 knots. 1825 CO 6983 2 destroyers, course 900, speed 18 knots.

- c) According to radio intercept service, the formation sighted at 0910 was in CO 6746 at 1135. 1523 PQV reported to Alexandria: "Am being bombed in CO 9136 by enemy aircraft."
- d) 1430 the "Malaya", "Eagle", "Argus", "Hermione", 4 destroyers, and 3 gunboats put out from Gibraltar for the east.

Italian Navy: 1100 CJ 6672 1 submarine. 1418 CK 4877 1 submarine.

- IV. It has been confirmed that escort forces have left Malta. At 0415 the U-boat "Onice" obtained a hydrophone bearing on the formation. From 0913 in CO 5937 until 1825 in CO 6983 the formation was shadowed and attacked by aircraft. The boats probably did not gain contact, At 1535 an aircraft reported from CO 9122 1 cruiser and 3 destroyers, westerly course. U 431 (Dommes) reported what was apparently the same formation at 1648 in CO 9112. It consisted of one vessel, probably a Sperrbrecher and 3 small vessels. U 453 (Schlippenbach) has taken over the operational area occupied by "Fraatz" until now.
- V. a), b) ./.

28 March 1942

- a) U 83 CJ 1380, U 568 Messina, · U 652 CK 7820, U 453 CO 6720, U 205 CO 6780, U 431 CO 6770, U 97 CO 67901
 - b) U 83 put in to Spezia at 1030. U 77 put out from Salamis.
- a) Italian reconnaissance: same as on II. previous day.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon Crete-Derna-Mersa Matruh area, Malta area and southeast of it.
- III. a) U 431: 1227 CO 6777 2 steamers, 4 patrol vessels. U 431: 2001 CO 6776 4 destroyers, easterly course.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

0852 CO 9136 1 cruiser, 2 destroyers, 3 steamers, 1 guardboat, course 120°, spéed slight.

1005 CO 6748 2 destroyers, 2 medium-sized freighters, 1 guardboat, course 230°, moderate speed.

1250 CO 5996 convóy.

1317 off Alexandria 2 freighters, 1 destroyer, 3 patrol vessels put out for the west. 2 tankers lay stopped outside the harbor.

1415 CO 9261 4 destroyers, 3 steamers, 1

guardboat, course 90°.

1425 CO 9267 3 small freighters, 6 guardboats, course 90°.

1506 CP 7288 3 large steamers, 1 destroyer, 1 guardboat, course 500.

Italian Navy:

1415 CJ 9687 l submarine. 2255 CK 7627 l submarine. 1730 CH 8349 Force H, easterly course.

c) 0623/28 March CO 6769: British unit reported aircraft shadowing the convoy. 0830 CO 6735: British reconnaissance aircraft sighted a periscope, course 2800, speed 2 knots. 0319/28 March CO 6759: report from a British aircraft: "Have attacked a U-boat." 1410 CO 5998: convoy "Solar" attacked by aircraft.

IV. According to air reconnaissance, traffic is proceeding close under the coast. "Dommes" reported from CO 6777, 2 steamers, 4 patrol vessels close under the coast. He added that he had not yet approached Point "Z". At 2101 "Dommes" made contact with 4 destroyers steering an easterly course, At 2133 the boat reported firing a fan of torpedoes which missed the destroyers, he was then forced to withdraw. "Reschke" was repeatedly attacked by anti-submarine vessels and aircraft in CO 6758. Withdrawn to the north for a short while. "Heilmann" requested permission to return owing to damage sustained in bombing attack. Boat is to put in to Salamis.

V. a), b) ./.

VI. Miscellaneous: Captain U-boats, Captain Kreisch, has returned from his duty trip to Lorient (Command Station C-in-C U-boats), for which he left on 9 March.

(Signed) Kreisch.

29 March 1942

- I. a) U 453 CO 6890, U 205 CO 6750, U 431 CO 6770, U 97 CO 6410, U 652 CK 4730, U 77 CO 2970, U 568 CJ 5850.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon west of Sardinia as
 far as radius of action allowed. South
 of Sicily.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon sea area of Malta and west of Malta, Benghazi area, Crete-Mersa Matruh.

III. a) ,/.

b) German air reconnaissance:

0910 CP 7146 5 destroyers, course 120°.
0930 16 units lay stopped off Alexandria.
0930 CO 9365 3 medium-sized freighters,
2 destroyers, 1 torpedoboat,
2 guardboats, making for
Alexandria, moderate speed.
0940 CP 7125 2 destroyers, making for
Alexandria.
1010 CO 9337 2 guardboats, course 80°.
1120 CH 5958 Force H, course 270°, high
speed.
1320 CH 5869 Force H, course 270°, high
speed.

Italian U-boat:

2215 CH 7624 Force H, course 240°.

c) British aircraft transmitted to Alexandria: "0857 have attacked a U-boat."
0955 CO 9364 British unit: "Am being attacked by enemy aircraft."

d) ./.

IV. According to aircraft and radio intercept service reports traffic has only been ascertained east of the boats' attack areas.

U 77 (Schonder) has passed 35° N to the south. The boat will take over the attack area hitherto occupied by "Heilmann."

"Reschke" reported that his night blindness has got worse and that he can no longer keep watch on the periscope himself.

U 431 (Dommes) is operating in CO 9126 because up till now no traffic has been observed at Point "Z" off Tobruk. Apparently traffic is not approaching via Point "Z" at the moment.

V. a), b) ./.

30 March 1942

- I. a) U 453 CO 6890, U 205 CO 6730, U 77 CO 6470, U 431 CO 9120, U 97 CO 2310, U 652 CJ 6220, U 568 CJ 1630.
 - b) U 568 put in to Spezia at 1030. U 97 put in to Salamis at 0915.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon west, south and southeast of Sicily.
 - b) German reconnaissance: in the forenoon and afternoon the Malta sea area. 22° E, Alexandria-Crete area.

III. a) ./.

- b) German air reconnaissance:
 - 1130 CJ 7875 1 cruiser, course 270°. 1731 CH 9636 1 cruiser, course 270°, speed 22 knots.
- c) From an unidentified source to Mediterranean Fleet:
 - l U-boat in CO 9124. Force "I" located in the afternoon in Tobruk-Mersa Matruh area.
- d) 1200 Force H put in to Gibraltar.
- e) 1900 CH 9635 l cruiser. 0315 CH 9457 l cruiser, course 270°.
- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. a), b) ./.

31 March, 1942

- ·I. a) U 205 CO 6730, U 77 CO 6790, U 431 CO 9120, U 453 CO 6890, U 652 CJ 2390.
 - b) U 652 put in to Pola at 1030.
- II. a) In the forenoon and afternoon between Sicily and Tunis, south of Sicily.
 - b) In the forenoon and afternoon along the coast of Cyrenaica. Convoy route.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:
 - 0855 off Alexandria, 3 ships stopped, 3 destroyers, 2 medium-sized merchant ships, course 270°.
 - c), d) ./..
 - e) 1500 CK 4534 1 submarine.
 - 0150 CJ 7512 l submarine, course 2400, speed 15 knots.
- IV. U 205 (Reschke) has started return passage because of the Commander's eye trouble.
 Otherwise nothing to report.
- V. a); b) ./.

WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

1 - 15 APRIL, 1942

PG/30924



1 April, 1942

- I. a) U 205 CO 5650, U 431 CO 9120, U 77, CO 6790, U 453 CO 6890.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Italian reconnaissance: in the morning and afternoon between Sardinia and Africa. Southwest of Italy. Convoy route.
 - b) German reconnaissance: same as on previous day.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 0910 CO 9233 7 freighters up to 5,000 tons, course 270°, moderate speed.
 1315 CO 9231 2 cruisers, 4 destroyers,
 4 steamers, course 270°, speed
 14 knots.
 1505 CO 6895 2 escort vessels, 4 small naval
 vessels, 1 small vessel, 2 small
 freighters, westerly course.
 - c) British aircraft reported at 2330 from an unidentified position that he had attacked a U-boat.
 - d) On 30 March laden ships were lying in Alexandria ready to sail for Malta. Escort expected from the Red Sea. On 30 March 2 units from Malta with fatal casualties on board are believed to have put in to port.
 - e) 0900 CO 9584 l submarine. 1542 CN 2239 l submarine.
- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. a) ./.
 - b)

2 April, 1942

- I. a) U 205 CO 5110, U 77 CO 6180, U 431 CO 9120, U 453 CO 6890.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) Convoy route. Inshore waters of Cyrenaica. Malta area.
- III. a) 0241 CK 2354 1 submarine reported by U 77.
 - b) 0845 CO 5996 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers,
 4 freighters, course 2900.
 1055 CO 6771 2 cruisers, 4 guardboats,
 3 freighters, course 2700.
 1220 CO 6771 the same convoy.
 1350 CO 5993 the same convoy, westerly course, speed 5 knots.
- IV. Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

3 April, 1942

- I. a) U 431 CO 5960, U 453 CO 6890, U 77 CK 8970, U 205 CO 1520.
 - b) U 77 put in to Salamis at 0845.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) In the morning and afternoon convoy route and inshore waters from 20° E as far as the Nile Delta.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:
 0745/3 April CN 5265 l submarine.

Italian air roconnaissance:

0830 CO 5996 1 cruiser, 4 destroyers, 3 freighters, course 90°, speed 14 knots.

0940 1 small cruiser, 1 torpedoboat, course 1800, speed 12 knots.

1000 CO 1866 1 submarine, course 270°.

German air reconnaissance:

0930 CP 7287 2 torpedoboats, 1 steamer putting in to port.

1622 1 1,000 ton steamer, 2 escort vessels put out from Mersa Matruh, course 70°.

1705 CN 6346 1 submarine.

IV. Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

4 April, 1942

- I. a) U 205 CJ 9976, U 431 CO 5960, U 453 CO 6890.
 - b) U 81 put out from Spezia at 1400. U 561 and U 562 put out from Pola at 1900. U 205 put in to Messina at 0800, put out from Messina at 1500.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) On convoy route. Malta sea area, inshore waters of Cyrenaica as far as Nile Dolta.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

0850 CP 7288 2 destroyers, 4 M.T.B.s, 3 steamers putting in to port. 0850 CP 7288 2 freighters, course 270°.

Italian air reconnaissanco:

0935 CP 8117 2 destroyers, course 165°, speed 20 knots.
0950 CP 5794 1 destroyer, 2 steamers, course 210°, speed 10 knots.

0955 CP 8185 1 steamer, course 345°, speed 10 knots.

- c) Admiralty announced the loss of the destroyer "Havoc".
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

0310 CO 2625 1 submarine.

- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

5 April, 1942

- a) U 431 CO 5960, U 453 CO 6890, U 205 CJ 8310, U 81 CJ 5490, U 331 CJ 5490, U 561 CJ 3870, U 562 CJ 3870.
 - b) U 97 put oút from Salamis at 1700.
- II. a) Straits between Africa and Sardinia.
 - b) South of Sicily, Benghazi Malta Sea area. African coast from Tobruk to Nile Delta.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

. . . .

0800 CP 7285 3 freighters, making for Port Said.

Italian air reconnaissance:

0920 CP 4836 l cruiser, l destroyer, l'freighter, course 1800, speed 14 knots.

German air reconnaissance:

0930 CP 7136 1 hospital ship, course 330°.

- c) ./.
- d) The "Valiant" is no longer in Alexandria.
- e) Italian Navy:

1200 CJ 9867 1 submarine. 0310 CN 2193 1 destroyer, course 360°, speed 16 knots.

- IV. U 431 (Dommes) and U 453 (Schlippenbach) have been granted freedom of action in the U-boats' operational area, "Dommes" west of the meridian in CO, "Schlippenbach" east of it. Nothing to report.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

6 April, 1942

- I. a) U 431 CO 9230, U 453 CO 9310, U 97 CO 2830, U 81 CJ 9580, U 331 CO 9540, U 561 CK 4730, U 562 CK 7220, U 205 CJ 1620.
 - b) U 205 put in to Spezia at 1045.
 U 81 put in to Messina at 0915.
 U 331 " " " 0940.
 U 331 put out from Messina at 1800.
- II. a) Between Sardinia and Africa.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta area, inshore waters of Cyrenaica as far as Alexandria.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

0910 CO 5992 1 destroyer, 2 steamers, course 200°.

The "Queen Elizabeth" docked.

1335 CP 8118 3 warships, course 90°, high speed.

1645 CP 7522 9 ships, westerly course.

- c), d), e) ./.
- IV. Nothing to report.
- v. a), b) ./.

7 April, 1942

- I. a) U 431 CO 6880, U 453 CO 9310, U 81 CO 1160, U 331 CO 1160, U 561 CO 1230, U 562 CO 1380, U 97 CO 6720.
 - b) U 77 put out from Salamis, put in to Patras at 1844.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, area south of Crete including Alexandria.
- III. a) U 453: 1141 CO 9311 a large steamer, course 2700, speed 16 knots, zigzagging.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

0820 CO 9324 l freighter, course 270°, moderate speed.
1440 CN 3526 l submarine.
1740 CN 3182 l submarine.

- c) The hospital ship "Somersetshire" reported at 1437: "Am listing, taking to the boats." 1740: "Hatches 2 and 3 under water, keeping her afloat with difficulty." British aircraft at 1815: "Ship is afloat. Boats have returned."
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

1100 CJ 9587 l submarine. 1520 CN 3426 l submarine.

IV. U 77 (Heilmann) is operating in the U-boats! operational area west of 250 E. This meridian is the western limit for "Dommes". "Schlippenbach" is concentrating on the approach routes to Alexandria.

At 0820 an aircraft sighted 1 merchant ship in CO 9324, course 270°, moderate speed. At 1215 we received a radio message, time of origin 1141/7/573 from U 453 (Schlippenbach). He reported that the steamer sighted by the aircraft was zigzagging.

Italian and German radio intercept messages revealed that the steamer was torpedoed and it was the British hospital ship "Somersetshire". During the night "Schlippenbach" reported he had torpedoed the hospital ship in CO 6896: He only identified the markings after firing as the attack was carried out against the sun; the ship was not flying a flag.

V. a), b) ./.

8 April, 1942

- I. a) U 453 CO 6970, U 431 CO 6880, U 97 CO 6740, U 562 CO 2870, U 561 CO 2720, U 81 CO 1930, U 331 CO 1930.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) South of Sicily, southeast of Sicily. Crete Africa area to Tobruk Alexandria. Malta sea area.
- III. a) U 431: 1908 CO 9268 3 submarines, course 270°, moderate speed.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

0905 CO 6784 4 destroyers, 4 small merchant ships.
1205 CO 8332 4 destroyers, 4 small merchant ships.
1245 CO 8323 4 destroyers, 4 small merchant ships,
course 260°.
1050 CO 9242 1 destroyer, course 270°, high speed.
1230 CO 9121 1 destroyer, course 270°, high speed.
1115 CO 9372 hospital ship (?) with 2 escort
vessels, course 90°, moderate speed.

c) British unit transmitted the following from CO 9123 at 1230:

"Am being attacked by enemy aircraft".

- d) The "Eagle" docked at Gibraltar.
- e) Italian Navy:

1130 CK 7688 2 submarines. 1230 CJ 9136 1 submarine, course 270°.

- IV. U 431 (Dommes) sighted 3 enemy submarines on a westerly course at 1908 in CO 9268.
 U 453 (Schlippenbach) was ordered to report more details of the sinking of "Somersetshire". The message has been roceived.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

9 April, 1942

Ι.

II.

- a) U 453 CP 7240, U 431 CO 9230, U 97 CO 6740, U 562 CO 6270, U 561 CO 6180, U 81 CO 5360, U 331 CO 5360, U 77 CJ 9970.
- b) U 77 put in to Messina at 1120, put out at 1815.
- a) Straits between Sardinia and Africa.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, southeast of Sicily. Africa Crete Tobruk Alexandria.
- III. a) U 431: 2038 CO 9261 convoy, course 100°, speed slight.

 U 431: 0028 CO 9372 convoy.

 U 97: 0041 CO 6782 convoy, course 100°, moderate speed.

 U 97: 0213 CO 6785 convoy.

 U 431: 0347 CO 9385 convoy.
 - b) Italian air reconnaissance:

0800 CN 2112 1 cruiser, course 2700, speed 18 knots. More shadowers' reports show a mean course of 2700, moderate speed of 22 knots until 1900 CH 9641.

German air reconnaissance:

0920 CO 9122 2 destroyers, 2 escort vessels, 4 freighters, course 90°.

Italian air reconnaissance:

1034 CP 8115 1 torpedoboat, 3 freighters, course 170°, speed 12 knots.

German air reconnaissance:

1158 CO 9139 3 escort vessels, 3 steamers, 2 lighters.

- c) ./.
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

1530 CJ 3862 l submarine. 1325 CJ 7625 l submarine. 1525 CJ 7634 l submarine.

IV. U 431 (Dommes) reported at 2038 that he made contact with an eastbound convoy in CO 9261. Presumably this is the same convoy as was reported by one of our aircraft at 0920 and 1158. "Dommes" carried out an unsuccessful attack, then made contact again but was forced away by destroyers and could only shadow it on hydrophone bearings. As the U-boat had no torpedoes left and had not made contact by dawn, he returned to Spezia.

U 97 (Heilmann) contacted a convoy in CO 6782 at 0041, fired a fan which missed in CO 6785 and was driven off. At 0306 the U-boat reported no contact, last convoy position was CO 6783.

U 97 and U 453 (Schlippenbach) were ordered to report at 2355 whether they were operating on the convoy reported by Dommes. U 97 then reported that he was shadowing the convoy lying further to the west. No report received from U 453.

V. a) ./.

b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

10 April, 1942

I. a) U 81 CP 4590, U 331 CP 4530, U 562 CP 4260, U 561 CP 4860, U 453 CP 7160, U 431 CO 9230, U 97 CO 6740, U 77 CJ 8330.

b) ./.

II. a) ./.

b) Sicilian Channel, Crete area, Alexandria, Tobruk, Malta area.

III. a) ./.

b) 0950 CP 7178 l destroyer, 2 guardboats, 2 freighters, course 90°.

0955 CH 5974 2 unidentified units, course 260°.

1245 CH 5975 2 unidentified units, course 60°, high speed.

1002 CP 3478 l submarine.

1315 CO 2595 l submarine, course 315°.

1350 CO 2515 l submarine.

c) ./.

- d) 1232 bearing taken on submarine in CJ 4572.
- e) Italian Navy:

1600 CJ 6113 1 submarine.

2300 CJ 9264 l submarine, course 360° .

0453 CH 5465 unidentified unit, course 260°.

IV. U 453 (Schlippenbach) has reported.

Nothing to report.

- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

11 April, 1942

I. a) U 562 position according to dead reckoning not known, U 331, U 81 and U 561 outward bound.

U 453 CP 7160,

U 97 CO 9350,

U 431 CO 5340,

U 77 CJ 1380.

- b) U 565 put out from Spezia at 1400. U 77 put in to Spezia at 0845.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Crete Tobruk Alexandria area. Malta area.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 1040 CP 8128 large steamer, course 1650, speed 10 knots.
 - c) 1115 British aircraft reported to Alexandria from CO 5537:

"Am over enemy U-boat."

- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

1030 CK 4565 1 submarine.

1530 CN 5241 1 submarine.

1650 CK 7236 1 submarine.

1900 CN 5688 1 submarine.

- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

12 April, 1942

- I. a) U 453 CP 7160, U 97 CO 9220, U 431 CO 1920, U 565 CJ 5760, U 81) U 331)proceeding to operational area. U 562)
 - b) U 431 put in to Messina at 0700.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Tobruk-Alexandria area, Suez - Crete. Malta area, convoy route.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) Italian air reconnaissance: 1220 CN 2241 1 submarine.

German air reconnaissance:

1235 CO 3728 l submarine, course 00. 1430 CO 3724 l submarine, course 00. 1840 CN 2959 l submarine.

- c) l submarine in CN 1514 at 2250 according to radio location.
- d) The cruiser "Penelope" damaged in Gibraltar, Gaullist light naval forces and submarines in Alexandria.
- e) Sea Defense Commandant, Crete:

1033 l submarine submerged in Bay of Heraklion.

Italian Navy:

1230 CN 2641 l submarine. 0400 CJ 4168 l submarine.

- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./. (Signed) Kreisch.

13 April, 1942

- - b) U 431 put out from Messina at 0700. U 565 put in to Messina at 1240.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) Convoy route, Malta area, from 20° E to Alexandria.
- III. a) ../.
 - b) ./.
 - c) 1330 CK 7272 1 submarine (radio location).
 0910 CO 6673 2 destroyers, 1 freighter,
 course 420, speed 8 knots
 according to a report from a
 British aircraft.
 - d) It is alleged that the British wish to avoid convoys and let ships sail independently with air cover.
 - e) Italian Navy:

0855 CJ 3179 l submarine. 1800 CJ 9598 l submarine. 2345 CJ 9665 l submarine.

- IV. U 453 (Schlippenbach) reported firing two fans which missed destroyer escort, no torpedoes left. Return passage commenced. No traffic off Alexandria.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

14 April, 1942

- 1. a) U 453 CP 7190,
 U 565 Messina,
 U 431 CJ 5970,
 U 81)
 U 331) in the operational area off the ports.
 U 561)
 U 562)
 - b) U 431 put in to Spezia at 0800.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) Convoy route, east of Benghazi as far as Alexandria, Malta area.
- III. a) U 97: 2216 CO 6870 convoy in hydrophones.
 - b) 1002 CP 7179 2 M.T.B.s, course 270°, speed 34 knots.
 1531 CO 9367 4 destroyers, 1 steamer, course 285°, moderate speed.
 - c) ./.
 - d) ./.
 - e) Italian Navy:

1620 CN 6232 l submarine. 1055 CN 2285 l submarine. 1930 CJ 3941 l submarine.

- IV. U 97 (Heilmann) contacted a convoy in CO 6870 on a hydrophone bearing. Aircraft forced the U-boat to submerge in bright moonlight.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- - b) U 565 put out from Messina at 1800.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) Convoy route, Alexandria Crete Cyrenaica sea area. Malta area.

- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

 1035 CO 5986 2 destroyers, 2 escort vessels,
 l merchant ship.
 - c) ./.
 - d) ./.
 - e) ./.
- IV. The night 15/16 April was scheduled as the date for carrying out special operation "Morgenstern".

U 561 (Bartels) and U 331 (Thiessenhausen) have reported "Yes" by short signal. Otherwise nothing to report.

- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

16 - 30 APRIL, 1942

PG/30924.



6 May, 1942

Comments

of

Flag Officer Gorman Naval Command on the War Diary of Captain U-boats from 1 to 30 April

1. The carefully prepared operation against the Syrian coast went according to plan. The enemy obviously held up traffic after our initial successes.

The U-boats have carried out their allotted tasks well. The sinkings are gratifying. The success of the minelaying operation remains to be seen. (Pencil note at side: Nothing known to date.)

- 2. The War Diary of Flag Officer German Naval Command contains considerations for the use of U-boats in the Western Mediterranean. I agree with the U-boat disposition selected by Captain U-boats.
- 3. Otherwise no comment.

16 April, 1942

- I. a) U 561 U 331 U 81 U 562 U 97 CO 6870) in the operational area. U 453 CO 2470, U 565 CO 1410.
 - b) ./.
 - II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Crete African coast as far as Alexandria, exhaustive reconnaissance.
 - III. a) ./.
 - b) 0936 CP 4782 2 merchant ships, southerly course.
 - c), d) ./.
 - e) Italian Navy:

1400 CK 4728 1 submarine.

- IV. Usl (Guggenberger) and Ussl (Thiessenhausen) reported special operation "Morgenstern" carried out according to plan and successes with torpedoes and guns. Ussl sent a situation report: Steamer traffic independent and with escort. Average 2 steamers daily. For the last 2 days sailing vessels only at night. "Thiessenhausen" commenced return passage to disembark sick man.
- V. a) "Guggenberger" has sunk one tanker, one escort vessel and three sailing ships.
 "Thiessenhausen" torpedoed a steamer lying alongside the outer edge of the east mole and sank three sailing ships.
 - .b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 561 U 562 U 81 U 331 U 97 CO 6870) in the operational area. U 565 CO 4330, U 453 CO 1230.
 - b) ./.

- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia, west of Sicily as far as radius of action allowed.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta, area around 20° E, Crete, Alexandria.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

0800 CP 7273 2 escort vessels, 4 merchant ships, westerly course.

- c) Urgent radio traffic in the area: Cyprus, Haifa, Beirut.
- d), e) ./.
- U 565 (Franken) occupies the western half and U 97 (Heilmann) the eastern half of U-boat operational area. U 81 (Guggenberger) reported having fired 44 rounds with 8.8 cm gun at electricity works at Jaffa.
- V. a) "Guggenberger" opened fire on electricity works at Jaffa and observed some hits.
 - " b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 562 U 561 U 81 U 97 CO 4770 U 331 CO 6260) in the operational area. U 565 CO 5940, U 453 CK 7220.
 - b) U 331 put in to Salamis at 0900.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, southeast of Sicily, Derna Crete Alexandria Malta area.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 0910 CP 7285 2 M.T.B.s, making for Alexandria, high speed.
 0933 CO 9359 2 destroyers, 1 steamer, making for Alexandria.

- c) There was evidence of our U-boat activity in Lcvantine traffic. At 1655 a U-boat was reported in CP 8372. Rinella transmitted to Port Said, "2 submerged U-boats", position not given. Urgent radio traffic between Sucz, Alexandria, Haifa, Beirut, Famagusta and C-in-C Mediterranean.
- d) 2 cruisers put in to Gibraltar.
- e) Italian Navy:

0705 CN 2857 l submarine. 0730 CK 7486 l submarine. 1240 CK 7254 l submarine. 0255 CO 3823 l submarine.

IV. U 562 (Hamm) reported "Yes" by short signal. This confirms the fact that all the U-boats (U 81, U 331, U 561, U 562) have completed special operation "Morgenstern".

Otherwise nothing to report.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 562 CP 5310, U 81 CP 5830, U 561 CP 5770, U 565 CO 6780, U 97 CP 7140, U 453 CN 6630.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicîlîan Channel, Crete Derna Alexandria, Malta area.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 1021 CP 7175 5 steamers with M.T.B.s, westerly course.
 1030 CP 7282 1 steamer, 1 escort vessel, easterly course.
 - c) 1020 CO 9633 "Cooly" convoy reported aircraft shadower.
 - d) 2 cruisers put out from Gibraltar, no details of course.

e) Italian Navy:

1646 CN 2877 1 submarine. 1545 CO 5816 1 submarine.

- IV. U 561 (Bartels) reported the area which he has mined.
- V. a) U 561 (Bartels) sank 3 sailing ships.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

20 April, 1942

- I. a) U 562 CP 5310, U 81 CP 5830, U 561 CP 8240, U 97 CJ 9330, U 565 JO 6780, U 453 CN 3840.
 - b) U 573 put out from Pola at 1900.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia, west of Sardinia.
 - r) Sicilian Channel.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air recornaissance:

1330 CO 6774 2 destroyers, 2 escort vessels, course 270°, speed 12 knots.

1 cruiser, 1 flotilla leader, 1 guardboat, 2 steamers, course 270°, speed 12 knots.

1000 CH 3353 1 battloship, 1 cruiser, 10 destroyers, 1 aircraft carrier, course 270°, high speed.

1425 CH 3228 the same formation, course 285°, high speed.

- c) 1100 unidentified position, British aircraft reported to Alexandria, "Have attacked U-boat".
- ā), e) ./.
- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. a), b) ./.

21 April, 1942

- I. a) U 562 CP 5310, U 81 CP 5830, U 561 CP 8240, U 97 CO 9330, U 565 CO 6790, U 573 CN 3760, U 453 CN 2390.
 - b) U 453 put in to Pola at 1120.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel.

III. a), b) ./.

- c) Brisk traffic between Alexandria, Haifa, Beirut and escort vessels.
- d) The "Renave" (TN = "Renown"?), / "Dido" class cruiser and 7 destroyers put in to Gibraltar. American cruisers, aircraft carriers, destroyers and submarines are expected.
- e) Italian Navy:

1150 CO 2935 1 submarine. 1850 CO 3217 1 submarine.

- IV. U 97 (Heilmann), U 565 (Franken) were requested to send situation reports. Reports were received from both. U 81 (Guggenberger) requested permission to return to Salamis because of damaged hydroplane and reported situation. This reveals that traffic in the operational area has ceased for the present; no air patrols and few antisubmarine sweeps.
- V. a) U 81 (Guggenberger) has sunk 3 more sailing ships. The tanker U 81 reported sinking on 16 April was of the "Ahamo" class (8600 GRT) according to the Commander's report.
 - b) ../.

(Signed) Kreisch.

22 April, 1942

I. a) U 81 CP 5350, U 562 CP 5310, U 561 CP 8240, U 97 CP 7170. U 565 CO 9250, U 371 CO 5360, U 573 CK 4730.

- b) ./.
- a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta Tobruk Alexandria.
- II. a) ./.

I.

- b) 0925 CO 5998 1 destroyer, 5 guardboats, 4 steamers, course 75°, speed 10 knots.
 1125 CO 6778 the same convoy, course 90°.
- c) 1900 CP 4427 unidentified unit according to radiolocation.
 2150 CO 5618 reconnaissance aircraft reported a U-boat.
- d) There is a possibility that the aircraft carrier formation passed Gibraltar unobserved to the west.
- e) Italian Navy:

0845 CK 7748 1 submarine. 1545 CK 7819 1 submarine, course 175°.

U 371 (Neumann), U 565 (Franken), U 97 (Heilmann) have received new attack areas off Tobruk.
U 573 (Heinsohn) received orders to proceed to the Western Mediterranean via Messina.
U 74 (Friederich) has been detailed as another boat for the Western Mediterranean.
Franken and Heilmann made contact with the convoy reported by aircraft at 0925 and 1125.
During the night "Franken" succeeded in making a successful attack.
Heilmann reported: "Bombed again in bright moonlight".
U 81 (Guggenberger) has commenced return passage to Salamis.

Instruction from Flag Officer Gorman Naval Command Italy.

- 1. Two U-boats are to be detailed immediately to operate in the Western Mediterranean, a third as soon as possible.
- 2. The reduced opportunity of success in the Alexandria Tobruk operational area is to be countered with a concentration of the operational boats off Tobruk.
- 3. The two boats at present still operating off the Syrian coast are to be left there until their offensive capacity is exhausted.
- a) U 565 (Franken) has sunk one steamer of 5,000 G.R.T. from a convoy, torpedoed and probably sunk another.
- b) ./.

23 April, 1942

- I. a) U 562 CP 5340, U 81 CP 5150, U 97 CO 9350, U 565 CO 9350, U 371 CO 5960, U 573 CK 7770, U 561 CP 8220.
 - b) U 74 put out from Spezia at 1415. U 573 put in to Messina at 1610, put out at 0615,
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Crete Benghazi Port Said area, south of Sicily.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

1030 CO 9357 9 escort vessels, 8 steamers, westerly course.

1215 2 steamers of those above, and 5 guardboats eastbound.

1025 CP 7521 1 freighter, 1 escort vessel, course 290°.

1045 CO 7274 3 freighters, course 60°.

1050 CP 7521 2 gunboats (?), 1 freighter, stopped.

1530 CN 2824 1 submarine, course 270°.

c) 0330 CJ 7545 L submarine according to radiolocation.

0040 radio message from Royal Navy Mersa Matruh to Alexandria, probably in connection with a U-boat sighting. At 1247 British radio station gave a warning of a U-boat 35 miles northwest of Ras Assaz. 3 more U-boats were ascertained in the Alexandria area.

d), e) ./.

- IV. Greater enemy supply traffic in the Alexandria Tobruk area recently.
 U 562 had been requested to report the position
 of the minefield laid by him. Signal has been
 received. Position approximately in accordance
 with Appendix 4 to Operational Order No. 4 for
 the Mediterranean.
 U 97 (Heilmann) reported a fan (miss) fired at
 "Franken"'s convoy at dawn on 23 April.
- V. a) U 81 (Guggenberger) has sunk 3 more sailing ships
 b) ./.

24 April, 1942

- I. a) U 562 CP 5340, U 561 CP 8220, U 97 CO 6790, U 565 CO 9230, U 371 CO 5960, U 81 CO 6160, U 74 CN 1760.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) North African coast, Philippville as far as Tunis.
 - b) Sicilian Channel. Crete Tobruk Alexandria area. Malta area.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

0920 CO 6775 3 destroyers, 3 escort vessels, 3 merchant ships, westerly course, moderate speed.

0855 CO 9112 4 escort vessels, 4 freighters, course 270°.

1515 CP 4643 1 submarine.

- c), d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

1500 CN 2853 1 submarine, course 210°.

- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 562 CP 5310, U 561 CP 8220, U 565 CO 9230, U 97 CO 6790, U 371 CO 5960, U 81 " U 74 CH 6560, U 573 CJ 8480.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel.
- III. a), b) ./.

- c) 0346 Alexandria transmitted the sighting report of a U-boat in CP 2934 also an instruction to an unidentified unit which, according to the radio intercept service at Taormine indicates a mine warning.
- d). ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

1445 CJ 7791 1 submarine.

IV. U 74 (Franken) reported torpedo stocks (still 2 electric torpedoes) and requested permission to return to Salamis to take on supplies.

Boat is at present to remain in the operational area.

U 561 (Bartels) and U 562 (Hamm) were requested to report their torpedo stocks and received instructions to be west of 31° E on 27 April. Messages were received from both U-boats. "Hamm" reported, "No traffic in southern ports and grid square 64, three bow and 1 stern electric torpedoes".

"Bartels" reported two stern electric torpedoes, one of which is probably no longer serviceable, situation and damage, and requested permission to return.

Damage makes return necessary.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 561 CP 4640, U 562 CP 5390, U 97 CO 6790, U 565 CO 6780, U 371 CO 5960, U 74 CH 5670, U 573 CJ 7420.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, area around Malta and to the south, Crete Alexandria area, Tobruk.
- III. a), b) ./.
 - c) 1130 northbound U-boat reported 32 miles north of Haifa.
 - d) ./.

e) Italian Navy:

1156 CK 4552 l submarine. 0215 CK 5889 l submarine. 0731 CJ 8764 l submarine.

- IV. U 561 (Bartels) has commenced return passage. Otherwise nothing to report.
- V. a) "Bartels" has sunk another sailing ship.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

27 April, 1942

- I. a) U 562 CP 5380, U 561 CP 4910, U 97 CO 6790, U 565 CO 6780, U 371 CO 5960, U 573 CH 9150, U 74 CH 7390.
 - b) U 375 put out from Spezia at 1700.
- II. a) African coast from Philippville to Tunis.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, same as on previous day.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 1020 CO 5990 l freighter, course 300.
 - c), d) ./.
 - e) Italian Navy:

1215 CN 5371 l submarine. 0345 CN 2169 l submarine.

- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) The copy of a letter from a member of the crew of U 79 (Kaufmann) now in captivity was sent by 23rd U-boat Flotilla. It reads,

"Alexandria, 26 December 1941.

On the morning of 23 December at 0800 we attacked a convoy off Sidi Barrani but were discovered by the destroyers and in three hours more than 60 depth charges were dropped.

Then we scuttled our boat and all managed to escape in time. We were then saved by the British destroyer (name deleted), treated very well on board and landed in Alexandria on 24 December."

(Signed) Kreisch.

28 April, 1942

- I. a) U 562 CP 4870, U 561 CO 6540, U 97 CO 6790, U 565 CO 6780, U 371 CO 5960, U 372 CJ 1770, U 74 CH 7550, U 573 CH 8120.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta area, Crete, Tobruk, Alexandria area.
- III. a) U 97: 1912 CO 6779, convoy on easterly course according to hydrophone bearing.
 - b) 1135 CO 8323 7 vessels, course 80°.
 1737 CN 3454 2 fast motor minesweepers,
 course 300°.
 - c) Alexandria signalled to escort leader at 1645:

"Submerged U-boat off Ras Assaz."

- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

0654 CJ 6691 1 U-boat.

IV. U 371 (Neumann) fired a fan (miss) at an escorted steamer putting in to Tobruk. The boat then contacted an eastbound convoy but was forced to submerge by aircraft and destroyers. At 1912 the convoy was in CO 6779 according to a hydrophone bearing. At 0407 the boat reported "Very bright moonlight while in pursuit. 2030 escort vessel was forced to retire. Bombs. 0205 probable M.T.B.s. Am proceeding to operational area."

U 565 (Franken) contacted "Neumann" s convoy. Fired torpedo which missed fast escort vessel, finally depth charge pursuit. No damage. Boat has commenced return passage to Salamis to refuel.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

29 April, 1942

- I. a) U 97 CO 6790, U 562 CO 6780, U 371 CO 5960, U 565 CO 6470, U 561 CO 5220, U 573 CH 6590, U 375 CH 7380, U 74 CH 7550.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta area, Derna, Crete, Alexandria area.
- III. a), b) ./.
 - c) 1930 CO 6253 British unit "AN" according to radio location.
 - d) ./.
 - e) Italian Navy:

1115 CK 7318 1 submarine. 1545 CK 7624 1 submarine.

- IV. U 371 (Neumann) reported torpedo stocks and situation on request. In the morning aircraft reconnaissance, in the evening anti-submarine sweeps. 8 electric torpedoes. Otherwise nothing to report.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

30 April, 1942

- I. a) U 371 CO 6740, U 562 CO 6780, U 97 CO 6790, U 565 CK 8970, U 561 CO 1230, U 375 CH 5670, U 573 CH 7380, U 74 CH 7550.
 - b) U 565 put in to Salamis at 1000.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia, as far west as radius of action allowed.
 - b) Tobruk Crete Alexandria area. Convoy route.

III. a) ./.

- b) German air reconnaissance:
 1326 CO 9229 l hospital ship.
- c) ./.
- d) At 0600 the "Eagle" and a "Dido" class cruiser put out from Gibraltar on an easterly course.
 1800 put in again.
- e) ./.

IV. Western U-boats:

According to a report from the Italian
Navy an aircraft carrier (the Eagle), a
"Dido" class cruiser (the "Charybdis")
and 5 destroyers put out from Gibraltar
at 0600 for the east. Later radio intercept
reports indicate that the formation was at
sea on maneuvers and put in to Gibraltar
again at 1800.

Eastern U-boats:

"Heilmann" and "Hamm" were requested to give a situation report. Signal received from Hamm. He reports: "No traffic, aircraft every night so far". "Heilmann" has not reported.

V. a), b) ./.

Short review of U-boat operations during the period 16 to 30 April, 1942.

1. Total of U-boats in the Mediterranean: 20.

Out of action for a comparatively long time owing to serious damage: 2.

Bomb damage - U 73 and U 372 damaged by running on seabed.

- 2. U-boat operations: 7 U-boats at sea on an average
 - a) 4 U-boats on a special operation in the Eastern Mediterranean from 15 to 27 April according to Operational Order No. 4. Operation went according to plan.

Results:

Minelaying operations executed as planned. (12 T.M.B. mines off Haifa, 8 T.M.C. off Beirut, 12 T.M.B. off Famagusta, 12 T.M.B. and 8 T.M.C. off Port Said);

Apart from that the following were sunk:

l tanker (8600 G.R.T.)
l escort vessel
l7 sailing ships;

Torpedoed, sinking not observed:

1 steamer approximately 3000 - 4000 G.R.T.

Also the electricity works at Jaffa were shelled.

b) An average of 3 U-boats in the Tobruk - Alexandria area.

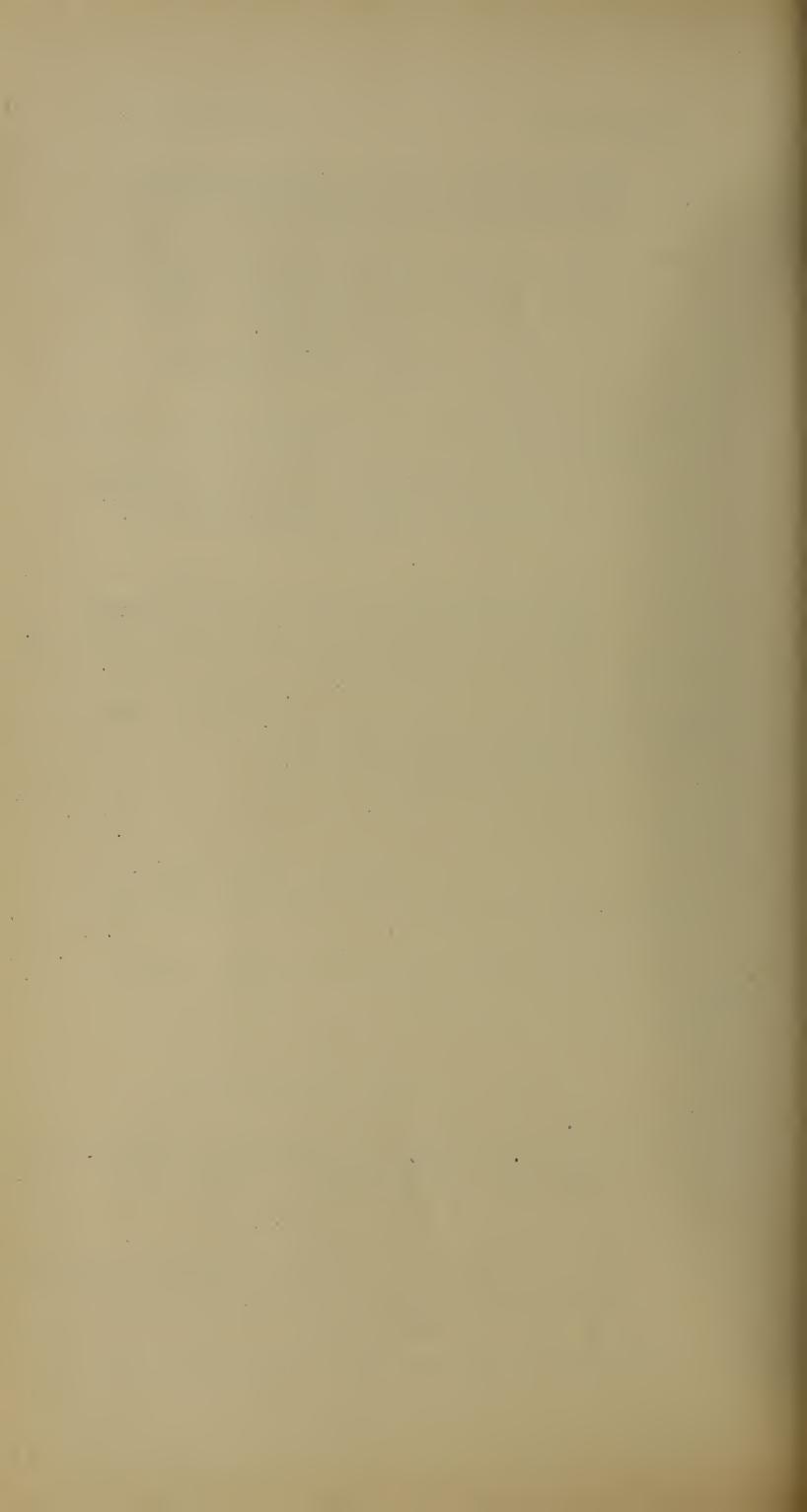
Successes:

- 1 steamer of 5,000 G.R.T. sunk.
 1 steamer torpedoed, probably sunk.
- c) From 27 April 2 U-boats, from 30 April 3 U-boats operated in the Western Mediterranean against Force H, engaged in ferrying of aircraft from Gibraltar to Malta.

3. General traffic situation:

From the impression created by U-boat observations and air reconnaissance reports, the volume of traffic in the Tobruk - Alexandria area was less than the usual average.

Nothing particular noted in the other areas.



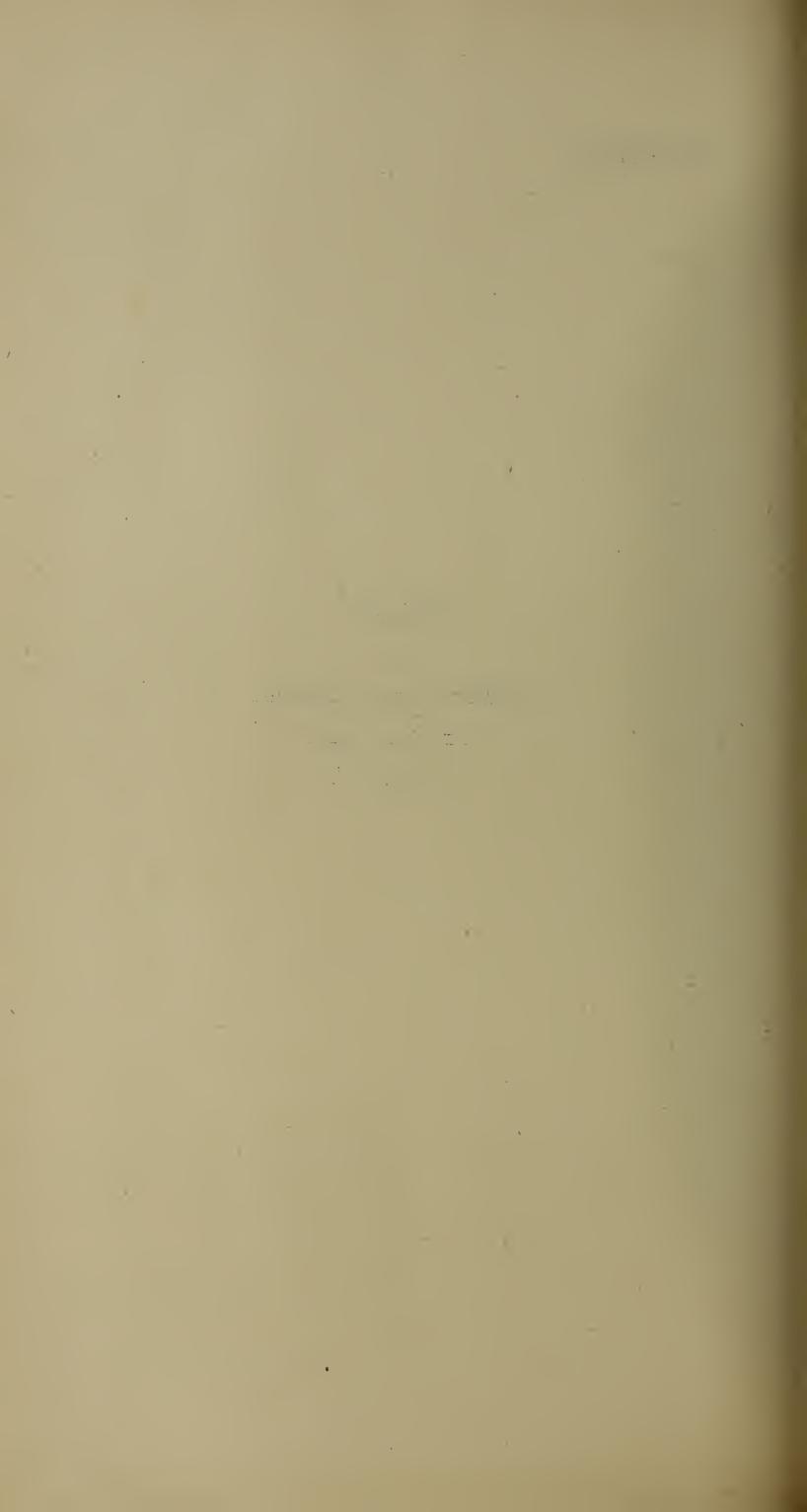
WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

1 - 15 MAY, 1942

PG/30924



1 May 1942

- I. a) U 97 CO 6790, U 562 CO 6780, U 371 CO 6740, U 561 CK 7860, U 573 CH 7380, U 375 CH 7630, U 74 CH 7520.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) West of the straits south of Sardinia as far as radius of action allowed.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, convoy route, Crete-Tobruk-Alexandria area,

III. 'a) ./.

- b) 0937 CO 6778 2 destroyers, course 270°, speed 20 knots.
- c) 1310 CH 7298 British aircraft signalled to Gibraltar: "Am over enemy U-boat." Later, "Have attacked with depth charges."

British submarine sightings:

1810 CO 6754 surfaced. 2100 CO 6748 surfaced, course 90°, speed 8 knots.

- d) 0800 the cruiser "Charybdis" put out from Gibraltar on an easterly course. 1530 the cruiser "Charybdis" put in to Gibraltar. 1400 the destroyers "Georgetown", "Wishart", "Wrestler", and "Westscott" put out from Gibraltar on an easterly course.
- θ) ./.

IV. Eastern U-boats:

Message received from U 97 (Heilmann) as requested. The boat reported: "No traffic observed. Few aircraft in the daytime, anti-submarine sweeps by aircraft at night. Very bright moonlight nights. Two electric torpedoes left."
U 371 (Neumann) attacked a homeward bound convoy at 1040 and fired a widely-spread fan of four. Probably 1 hit. Because of the mist the number of ships was not observed. Four electric torpedoes.
U 561 (Bartels) requested details of recognition signals for May.

Western U-boats:

According to a radio intercept message a "Dido" class cruiser put out again from Gibraltar on an easterly course for maneuvers. U 573 (Heinsohn) received orders at 0842 hecause of engine trouble to make for Spezia, proceeding south of the Balearic Islands and north of Corsica. The attention of the U-boat was drawn to the fact that the transmission of the long radio message Serial Number 0231/1/536 was superfluous from an operational point of view and a serious breach of coperational orders. The Commander should have made his decision to return independently in view of the engine damage he reported. The report could have waited and could have been transmitted by short signal. Now there is a danger that the enemy has received intimation as a result of this radio message that German U-boats are operating again in the Western Mediterranean. This assumption can be taken as confirmed, for in the afternoon a radio. intercept message was received of a British aircraft reporting that he had attacked a submerged U-boat in CH 7298 just north of the U-boats' operational area. Later a signal was received from "Heinsohn" reporting that he was attacked by an aircraft in CH 8155. A special air reconnaissance seems to have been carried out on this day, for in "Heinsohn" is radio message, which was presumably the cause of the reconnaissance, he reported that he had not observed any air patrols before. The first report from "Heinsohn" concerning bomb damage was received at 1653.

He reported: 18155 bombed, can no longer submerge or

maneuver."

The following steps were taken to assist ייט 573":

1) "Koenenkamp" and "Friedrich" received orders to proceed at maximum speed to assist "Heinsohn".

Supermarina was requested to send any Italian U-boats in the vicinity of the damaged U-boat to its assistance.

3) The question of whether the immediate operation of German aircraft from Sicily was likely to be successful and whether there was a possibility of operating Italian aircraft from Sardinia was discussed with C-in-C South.

Spanish assistance was requested through 4) the Naval War Staff. (Rescue of crew, if possible U-boat also).

to 1) Our own boats were about 120 miles distant from "Heinsohn".

to 2) The Italian U-boats "Moncenigo" and "Emo" were detailed to assist. They were about 100 miles from the damaged boat.

- to 3) Immediate operation of aircraft did not promise success as 12 hours would have been required to make the aircraft ready and the route took 4 hours. The aircraft could not therefore reach the U-boat before 2300 at the earliest and would then scarcely spot the boat in the dark. Apart from that the position lay outside their radius and intermediate landings would have been necessary. Aircraft operations were arranged for the next day to reconnoiter and assist the crew. C-in-C South placed 2 German and 2 Italian aircraft at our disposal, carrying rubber boats and lifebelts and supplies, which were to be dropped near the crew in the water if the boat had to be scuttled or sunk.
- War Staff was granted. 2 fast ships which were to reach the U-boat about 0000 were available. At 1721 a radio message was received from "Heinsohn" reporting the damage:

 "Most Immediate. Both Diesels completely unserviceable, only 1 electric motor in partial working order, still afloat, will have to scuttle boat. CH 8218 from "Heinsohn"."

"Heinsohn" was informed at 1728 that "Koenenkamp" and "Friedrich" and 2 Italian U-boats were coming to his assistance. Also our U-boats and the Italian were forbidden to attack submarines west of 0° to avoid a confusing situation among the U-boats. A general attack ban in view of the appearance of Spanish vessels was not promulgated as we had to take possible attacks by British units into account.

There was an inexplicable difference in 'Heinsohn" 's position as contained in the radio messages 1/547 and 1/549. Presumably the grid squares 8218 and 8128 were confused. "Heinsohn" was requested to confirm 8128 by short signal "yes" or report his position again by short

At 1928 the boats were informed that, according to a radio intercept message, 4 destroyers had put out from Gibraltar. We had to reckon with the possibility that they were in search of the U-boat. At 1936 a position report was received from "Heinsohn". According to the first report (CH 8155) and this new one (CH 8135) the boat seemed to have moved to the

northeast although course and speed were not given. Considering the damage reported the boat could not be expected to reach one of our bases. But in view of the rescue operations a definite course had to be set. He received orders to make for the limit of the territorial waters with a course set for Alicante.

In a telephone conversation with Naval War Staff at 2300 we were asked to order the boat to make for Cartagena, if there were no objections to this, because only there could preparations be made to berth it. This could not have been foreseen by us. As the distance from the 1900 position of the boat to Alicante was almost the same as to Cartagena, it was not ordered immediately to Cartagena, but to Alicante so as to gain space to the north. At 2352 the boat received orders to make for Cartagena. At the same time he was asked to report his position and speed. No report was received. Later, it was ascertained that his transmitter was out of order.

"Koenenkamp" requested direction finding signals at 2359. "Friedrich" reported at 0200 on 2 May that he had sighted a submarine, probably enemy, in CH 2533. At 0230 a teleprint message was received from Naval War Staff reporting that two Spanish gunboats were taking part in the

search and rescue operations.

At 0410 "Heinsohn" was again requested to report his position, as a position report had not been received.

According to the instructions from Flag Officer, German Naval Command, C-in-C South was to be asked at 0400 to have the 4 available aircraft operate if

1) no report was received from one of the German or Italian U-boats to the effect that they had

reached the damaged boat; or

2) no report was received to the effect that the Spanish vessels had found the damaged boat. No such report was received. The request was made for the aircraft to operate through the Liaison Officer of the C-in-C South to Naval Command. They took off at 0615 on rescue operations.

The U-boats were informed of the aircraft assistance and the names of the 2 Spanish gunboats

also taking part.

At 1025 radio messages /1/573 and /1/574 were received from "Heinsohn", The following is a copy of /1/573 and /1/574:

"Transmitter only just repaired. Only cipher material identification word "Current" from Table E. My position is SX 9997. Starboard shaft, Diesels and electric motor broken down, cannot be repaired with tools on board, both compressors out of action. Ballast tank I, ballast and fuel starboard II ripped. Pressure hull stern compartment buckled. Lead to starboard shaft bush torn. Both batteries run down. Tube V damaged etc. Two hits. Query: scuttle boat or put in to port? From "Heinsohn"."

After Captain U-boats had conferred with the Naval War Staff, "Heinsohn" received orders to destroy all secret documents and put in to Cartagena. More instructions were passed to the U-boat by the Naval Attache. "Friedrich" and "Koenenkamp" (U 74 and U 375) were ordered to occupy CH 81 as their attack area. The attack ban on submarines west of O was lifted.
At midday Naval War Staff reported

that the boat was sighted off Cartagena, and tugs went out and brought it into the Naval Arsenal. The Naval Attache's aide was due to arrive in Cartagena during the

afternoon.

It can be deduced from radio intercept messages that enemy destroyers and aircraft were detailed to operate against the damaged U-boat.

(Signed) Kreisch.

2 May 1942

- a) U 371 CO 6740, I. U 562 CO 6780, U 97 CO 6790, U 561 CK 7510, U 573 CH 8130, U 74 CH 7520, U 375 CH 7580.
 - b) U 573 put in to Cartagena.
- a) Straits south of Sardinia and west as II. far as radius of action allowed, sea rescue service for U 573 - 4 aircraft.
 - b) Sicilian Channel. Tobruk, Crete, Alexandria area.
- III. a) ./.

1. Oak 17

b) German air reconnaissance:

0825 CP 7246 4 destroyers, 3 steamers, course 270°, speed 17 knots. 0910 CO 6711 1 destroyer, northerly

course.

1750 CP 7184 4 destroyers, 1 escort vessel, 3 freighters, westerly course.

1805 the same convoy in CP 7194 altered course to the southeast.

- c) According to radio traffic, continual brisk supply traffic in the Marmarica area, mainly Tobruk, Sidi Barrani, Mersa Matruh. Probably 2 convoys on opposite courses, escort consisting of destroyers, possibly also cruisers.
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

0810 CK 7694 l submarine. 1530 CH 8126 l destroyer, course 360°, speed 22 knots. 0325 CN 3252 l submarine, course 360°, speed 2 knots.

IV. Eastern U-boats:

Nothing to report.

Western U-boats:

After "Heinsohn" reported that he was off Cartagena, "Koenenkamp" and "Friedrich" received orders to occupy CH 81 as their attack area - "Friedrich" to occupy the northern half, "Koenenkamp" the southern half. 0410 "Koenenkamp" reported by short signal that he was returning owing to engine trouble,

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

3 May 1942

- I. a) U 371 CO 5970, U 562 CO 6780, U 97 CO 6760, U 561 CK 4410, U 375 CH 5790, U 74 CH 8120.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) African coast from Philippeville to Tunis.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Sicily-Tripoli area, Crete-Alexandria area,

III. a) ./.

b) 0800 CO 5995 2 escort vessels, westerly course, high speed.
0800 CO 6797 1 escort vessel, course 100°, moderate speed.
0825 CP 7251 1 destroyer, 2 freighters, course 105°, speed 8 knots.
0835 CP 8186 1 guardboat, 1 freighter, northerly course, speed 6 knots.

c), d), e) ./.

IV. Western U-boats:

Nothing to report.

Eastern U-boats:

U 97 (Heilmann) requested permission to return to Spezia. U-boat received orders to remain in the operational area if he still had some torpedoes left and did not have to return for urgent reasons. The boat will be withdrawn as soon as another boat leaving the base reaches the operational area.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

4 May 1942

- I. a) U 371 CO 5930, U 562 CO 6780, U 97 CO 6760, U 561 CJ 6220, U 375 CH 6750, U 74 CH 8120.
 - b) U 83 put out from Spezia at 1700. U 561 put in to Pola at 0720.
- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Tripoli to Malta-Sicily, Alexandria area.
- III. a), b) ./.

- c) 0323 submarine-chaser in Tobruk area transmitted 8 groups to Alexandria, time of origin 0315. 1008 CO 6866 surfaced German U-boat sighted.
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy: 0211 CJ 9925 1 submarine.

IV. Western boats:

U 74 (Friedrich) has occupied CH 81 as attack area.

Eastern boats:

U 371 (Neumann) reported an attack on antisubmarine group in the Tobruk area.

- V. a) "Neumann" torpedoed one patrol vessel of an anti-submarine group. This vessel was probably sunk.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

5 May 1942

- I. a) U 97 CO 6760, U 562 CO 6780, U 371 CO 5990, U 83 CJ 5410, U 375 CJ 4150, U 74 CH 8120.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 - b) Sicily-Tripoli-Malta area as well as Crete-Tobruk area,
- III. a) ./.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

 1015 CO 5998 1 escort vessel, 1 steamer,
 course 2550.
 - c) ./.
 - d) Group composed of the "Argus", the "Charybdis" and 4 destroyers put out at 0600 on an easterly course, put in to Gibraltar again at 1800.

e) Italian Navy:

0940 CK 7686 1 submarine. 1502 CO 2125 1 submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

U 562 (Hamm) requested permission to return to Pola because of bomb damage. Boat received orders to return.

Western boats:

The "Argus", the "Charybdis" and 4 destroyers put out from Gibraltar at 0600 on an easterly course according to a radio intercept message. The formation put in again at 1800.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

6 May 1942

- a) U 97 CO 6760, U 371 CO 5990, I. U 562 CO 5210, U 83 CJ 9820, U 375 CJ 1390, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) U 205 put in to Spezia at 1700.
 U 375 put in to Spezia at 0900.
 U 83 put in to Messina at 0950.
 U 81 put out from Salamis at 1630. U 205 put out from Spezia at 1700, put in to Spezia again at 2130.
- a) Same as on previous day. II.
 - b) Tripoli-Sicily area, coast from Derna to Alexandria.
- a) ./. III.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

0835 CO 9162 1 cruiser, 2 escort boats, 5 freighters, course 30°. 1015 CO 9268 convoy of 9 units, easterly course. 1650 CO 9264 2 destroyers, 3 escort vessels. 4 steamers, . . . course 90°.

Italian air reconnaissance:

0920 CP 7258 2 destroyers, course 90°, speed 20 knots.

c), d), e) ./.

IV. Eastern boats:

U 97 (Heilmann) received orders to return to Spezia. Boat has been at sea for 32 days.

Western boats:

Nothing to report.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

7 May 1942

- I. a) U 97 CO 6440, U 371 CO 5990, U 81 CO 2910, U 562 CO 1340, U 83 CJ 9820, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) U 565 put out from Salamis at 1630. U 83 put out from Messina at 2025. U 205 put out from Spezia at 2025.
- II. a) African coast as on previous day.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Sicily-Tripoli area, also coast from 20° E to Alexandria.

III. a) ./.

b) German air reconnaissance:

1134 CO 9373 small warship, easterly course.
1140 CO 6775 2 ships, southeasterly course,
high speed.
1510 CO 9111 2 destroyers, northeasterly
course, high speed.

1610 CO 5998 2 destroyers, making for Tobruk.

- c) Surfaced submarine in CO 6774 at 0846 according to radio intercept service.
- d) ./.

e) Italian Navy:

1730 CO 1758 1 submarine. 0725 CK 4767 1 submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

U 371 (Neumann) has commenced return passage as the boat is damaged.

Western boats:

Nothing to report.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

8 May 1942

- I. a) U 81 CO 6730, U 371 CO 5620, U 565 CO 5820, U 97 CO 5210, U 83 CO 1140, U 562 CK 7250, U 205 CJ 1990, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 - b) Malta, from 22° E to Alexandria.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 1009 CP 5884 1 escort vessel, 1 freighter, course 270°.
 - c) ./.
 - d) 0300 the "Renown", the "Eagle", the "Charybdis" and a minelaying cruiser put out from Gibraltar on an easterly course.
 - e) Italian Navy:

1200 CK 4878 1 submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

U 565 (Franken) is operating west of the meridian in CO 6754, "Guggenberger" east of it. U 371 (Neumann) received orders to proceed to Salamis for an overhaul. U 97 (Heilmann) at 1832 in CO 1684 sighted a U-boat, presumably U 83. "Neumann" sighted a U-boat in CO 2379 at 0521.

Western boats:

Nothing to report.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

9 May 1942

- I. a) U 81 CO 6730, U 565 CO 5930, U 83 CO 2770, U 97 CO 1520, U 371 CO 2340, U 205 CJ 8360, U 562 CK 4410, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) U 205 put in to Messina at 1530, U 97 at 0745.
 U 205 put out at 2000.
 U 371 put in to Salamis at 1045.
 U 331 put out of Salamis at 1630.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia as far as Algiers, Western Mediterranean as far as radius of action allowed.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Egyptian inshore waters.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 0820 CO 9269 1 escort vessel, easterly course.

 0945 CO 5989 1 freighter, making for Tobruk.

 1100 CH 8325 1 destroyer, course 2200, speed 24 knots.

 1100 CH 9615 1 destroyer, course 900, speed 24 knots.
 - c) British aircraft reported a battleship and 4 destroyers, course 30°. Position not known.

- d) According to radio picture all the Alexandrian forces are at sea. The "Eagle" put in to Gibraltar during the night.
- e) Italian Navy:

1330 CJ 6113 1 submarine. 1830 CN 3363 1 submarine. 2120 CN 2162 1 destroyer.

to b) 1845 CJ 8778 heavy cruiser, course 90°, speed 24 knots.

1800 CO 6791 1 steamer, course 90°.

0630 2 warships, not identified more closely, put in to Valetta.

0735 CP 7276 4 escort vessels, 2 steamers, northwesterly course.

IV. Eastern boats:

The U-boats in the Tobruk area received the following operational areas: U 565 (Franken) west of the meridian in CO 6744, east of it as far as the meridian in CO 6755.

U 81 (Guggenberger) east of this line.
"Franken" reported by short signal a steamer in CO 6791, course 90°, 'speed 12 knots.

At 1931 "Kraus" reported his position from CO 6785 by short signal.

Western boats:

Nothing to report.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

10 May 1942

a) U 81 CO 9130, U 83 CO 6740, U 565 CO 5990, U 331 CO 2830, U 205 CO 1180, U 97 CJ 9820, U 74 CH 8140.

- b) U 559 put out from Pola at 1910.
 U 97 put out from Messina at 1840.
 U 562 put in to Pola at 0730.
 U 559 put in to Pola at 0700.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia as far as Algiers.
 - b) Sicily-Benghazi area, Malta area and southward, Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area.

III. a) ./.

b) German air reconnaissance:

1015 CO 6778 2 destroyers, 2 escort vessels, 4 merchant ships, westerly course.

Italian air reconnaissance:

0805 CP 8272 4 small ships, 1 armed ship, course 750, speed 8 knots.

German air reconnaissance:

1436 CO 5999 3 destroyers, 3 escort vessels, 4 freighters, 1 lighter, making for Tobruk.

- c) At 2054 an aircraft reported to Alexandria sighting a U-boat in CO 5962.
- d) 1300 4 destroyers put in to Gibraltar.
 1700 2 destroyers, 1 torpedoboat, 1 cruiser
 put in to Gibraltar. One "Aurora"
 class cruiser put out from Gibraltar.
- e) ./.

IV. Eastern boats:

U 331 (Thiessenhausen) reported passing 35° N. U 559 (Heidtmann) put out from Pola at 1850. At 0640 the boat commenced the return passage to Pola because of damage (leaking exhaust cut-outs).

Western boats:

Nothing to report.

V. a), b) ./.

11 May 1942

- I. a) U 83 CO 9130, U 331 CO 6710, U 565 CO 5960, U 81 CO 6740, U 205 CO 2740, U 97 CJ 8320, U 559 CJ 3730, U 562 CJ 3170, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) U 97 put in to Spezia at 0830.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, south and southeast of Malta as far as Benghazi. Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area.

III. a) ./.

b) German air reconnaissance:

0915 CO 6573 5 destroyers, course 270°.
Aircraft shadowed them
continuously until 1610 in
CO 6578.

0600 CN 3637 l submarine. .0640 CP 7145 6 destroyers, course 90°, high speed.

0650 CO 5982 1 destroyer, making for Tobruk, high speed.

0756 CO 6892 l escort vessel, l freighter, course 165°.

Italian air reconnaissance:

- 0730 l cruiser off Cape Negro, course 270°.
- c) 0255 CO 9236 reconnaissance aircraft to Alexandria: "Surfaced U-boat, course 500, speed 10 knots."
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

1200 CK 7961 l submarine and CN 3461 l submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

Boats are disposed in north-south lines in the area off Tobruk.

U 205 (Reschke) west of the meridian in CO 6711. U 81 (Guggenberger) east of the meridian in CO 6711.

U 83 (Kraus) east of the meridian in CO 6722. U 331 (Thiessenhausen) east of the meridian in CO 6733.

U 565 (Franken) east of the meridian in CO 6821.

The destroyer formation north of the U-boat operational area was intercepted by "Kraus" by hydrophone bearing. "Kraus" reported at 1701: "Hydrophone bearing convoy in CO 6796, easterly course, depth charges, am pressing on."

At 0124 "Kraus" reported: "Hydrophone bearing."

At 0124 "Kraus" reported: "Hydrophone bearing was not a convoy but a distant cruiser formation, no contact, am occupying attack area."

Western boats:

Nothing to report.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

12 May 1942

- I. a) U 565 CO 6890, U 331 CO 6870, U 83 CO 6760, U 81 CO 6710, U 205 CO 5920, U 559 CJ 3170, U 97 CJ 1390, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) North African coast Tunis-Philippeville.
 - b) Malta-Benghazi area. Coast from Tobruk to Alexandria.

III. a), h) ./.

- c) 1210 aircraft reported to Alexandria from CO 6882: "Surfaced U-boat, course 18", speed 8 knots."
- d) 1930 the minelayer "Manxman" put in to Gibraltar.
- e) Italian Navy:
 1000 CO 4952 l submarine.
- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

13 May 1942

- I. a) U 565 CO 6880, U 331 CO 6870, U 83 CO 6760, U 81 CO 6720, U 205 CO 5990, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 1007 CP 7282 4 transports, southeasterly course.
 - c) ./.
 - d) The "Manxman" put out from Gibraltar on an easterly course at 0230.
 - e) Italian Navy:

0800 CO 2385 l submarine. 1445 CN 5232 l submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

The boats received orders to search the lines allotted to them in the new moon period beginning on the night 13/14 May, in such a way that they reach the coast at the end of the first half of the night and withdraw to the north as they search in the second half.

Western boats:

Nothing to report.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

14 May 1942

- I. a) U 205 C0 5960, U 81 C0 6740, U 83 C0 6780, U 331 C0 6870, U 565 C0 6880, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) U 431 put out from Spezia at 1530.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel. Malta-Tripoli area, inshore waters of Cyrenaica.
- III. a) U 565: 2106 9251 convoy, course 280°, speed 7 knots.

 U 81: 0108 CO 9217 faint hydrophone bearing 220°.

 U 565: 0100 CO 9241 convoy, course 290°, speed 7 knots.

 U 81: 0400 CO 9153 convoy.

 U 331: 0358 CO 9138 convoy.
 - b) German air reconnaissance:

1100 CO 9385 4 destroyers, 2 escort vessels, 5 steamers, westerly course.
1715 CO 9218 1 destroyer, course 90°, speed 12 knots.
0735 CO 5989 2 escort vessels, 1 merchant ship, course 90°.

c) ./.

- d) The "Eagle" and the "Argus" are being loaded.
- e) Italian Navy:
 1710 CO 5733 1 submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

At 1100 air reconnaissance sighted a convoy consisting of 5 merchant ships, 4 destroyers, and 2 escort vessels, on a westerly course in CO 9385. The boats were detailed to operate on this convoy. At 2106 U 565 (Franken) made contact. U 81 (Guggenberger) had a faint hydrophone bearing 2200 at 0035. The boat was in CO 9217. U 83 (Kraus) requested direction finding beacon at 0132. U 81 (Guggenberger) at 0130 in CO 9162 no longer had a hydrophone bearing and continued searching further south. 0157 "Franken" transmitted a shadower's report from CO 9241. At 0313 he reported that he had lost contact in CO 9161. "Guggenberger" contacted the escort at 0400 in CO 9153. "Thiessenhausen" reported at 0358: "Convoy in CO 9138, am being forced to withdraw."

Western boats:

Nothing to report.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

15 May 1942

- I. a) U 565 CO 6880, U 331 CO 6870, U 83 CO 6780, U 81 CO 6740, U 205 CO 5990, U 431 CJ 5450, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) ./.

- II. a) Majorca-Sardinia-Tunis-Algiers area.
 - b) Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area.

III. a) ./.

b) 1010 CO 6475 3 destroyers, 2 guardboats, 4 steamers, course 2700, speed 10 knots.

1500 CO 2939 l submarine. 2040 CO 2331 l submarine.

- c) According to radio location the "Manxman" and 2 destroyers are at sea in the Western Mediterranean.
- d) 1930 the "Malaya" with 2 destroyers put in to port from the west.
- e) 2000 CO 5513 2 destroyers (Italian Navy).

Eastern boats: IV.

U 83 (Kraus) reported at 1700 in CO 9216 wide noise band, bearing OO, wandering to the east. U 81 (Guggenberger) reported that he made contact with the convoy on the night 14/15 May and fired a torpedo which missed.

Western boats:

Nothing to report.

- a) "Kraus" torpedoed an escort vessel of the V. convoy mentioned above. The vessel was probably sunk.
 - b) ./.

WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

16 - 31 MAY, 1942

PG/30924

17 June 1942.

Comments

of Flag Officer German Naval Command Italy on War Diary of Captain U-boats from

1 - 31 May 1942

- 1) It can be stated that the number of boats at operational readiness has increased considerably in comparison with the previous month.
- 2) The operation carried out by three boats in the Western Mediterranean has ended in failure. U 74 is most probably lost, with no clue as to the cause, U 573 has been so badly damaged by bombs that it is not worth repairing. The third boat had to break off after a short time because of damage to the engines and damage from depth charges, and will be out of action for quite a long period as the result of the necessary change of tube. The War Diary of Flag Officer German Naval Command contains the operative considerations for the operation of the three boats in the Mediterranean. The disposition selected by Captain U-boats for the boats was correct with regard to the assignment and was not the cause of the failure.
- The behavior of the Commander of U 573 transmission of a long radio message was
 contrary to the instructions in his operational
 orders about the necessity for remaining unobserved as a prerequisite for success. It is
 probable that the air attack, of which U 573 was
 the victim resulted from his radio transmission.
 The measures adopted by Captain U-boats to assist
 the boat were practical. The Commander of U 573
 did not make this assistance any easier by his
 thoughtless radio messages.
- 4) Otherwise nothing to remark on U-boat operations until 23 May.
- 5) The considerations governing the close disposition of the U-boats off Tobruk ordered after 24 May to coincide with the commencement of the African Army operations are set out in the War Diary of German Naval Command. Concentrating the boats in a narrow space a short distance from Tobruk made very high demands on them, which were intensified by the disadvantages of bright moonlight nights. As long as there was the possibility however that Tobruk might fall to a surprise attack, the operation had to be risked, since the close disposition offered the greatest guarantee for effective cutting off of supplies or a possible evacuation from the sea.

16 May 1942

- I. a) U 565 CO 6880, U 331 CO 6870, U 83 CO 9130, U 81 CO 9130, U 205 CO 5990, U 431 CJ 9820, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) U 431 put out from Messina at 2005.
- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 - b) Sicilian. Channel, Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria-Malta area.
- III. a) U 331: 2146 CO 9381 convoy.
 - b) 0740 CN 3743 4 submarines. 1017 CO 9216 4 steamers, 2 destroyers, course 90°, speed 10 knots.
 - c) ./.
 - d) 1400 7 torpedoboats put out from Gibraltar towards the northeast for exercises. One "Jervis" class destroyer put in from the east.
 2100 5 destroyers put to sea on an easterly course.
 - e) Italian Navy: .

1350 CK 4715 l submarine. 0715 CK 7265 l submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

In order to avoid having the same boat always off Tobruk, an exchange will be effected within the sectors formerly allocated.

At 0310 "Thiessenhausen" reported that he was forced off during an attack on a convoy in CO 9381 and was attacked with

Western boats: .../.

depth charges.

V. a), b) ./.

PIDENTIAL

17 May 1942

- I. a) U 565 CO 6870, U 205 CO 9220, U 331 CO 9130, U 83 CO 6740, U 81 CO 5990, U 431 CO 1110, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, the whole of the Central Mediterranean, Malta and Tobruk area.
- III. a) U 83: 17 May, 0716 CO 6788 auxiliary cruiser, 2 destroyers, making for Tobruk.
 - b) 1105 CO 5998 1 guardboat, 1 steamer, southwesterly course. 1415 off Alexandria, 3 destroyers, 3 escort vessels, 5 steamers putting in to port.
 - c) ./.
 - d) The torpedoboats which put to sea yesterday put in to Gibraltar again. At 1000 the "Argus" put to sea with the "Charybdis" and 3 destroyers. At 1330 the "Eagle" put to sea with 3 destroyers. All eastbound.
 - e) Italian Navy:

2040 CK 4692 1 submarine. 2240 CK 8194 1 submarine. 0118 CO 4886 1 submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

U 83 (Kraus) in CO 6788 fired a fan which missed - because of a fault in servicing - an auxiliary cruiser which probably had troops on board.

At 0207 "Kraus" reported that a strong convoy put out from Tobruk and that traffic to Tobruk has noticeably increased.

Western boats: ./.

V. a), b) ./.

18 May 1942

- I. a) U 205 CO 9220, U 565 CO 6870, U 331 CO 9130, U 83 CO 6750, U 81 CO 5960, U 431 CO 1920, U 74 CH 8150, U 559 CJ 3170.
 - b) U 559 put out from Pola at 0920.
- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 - b) Southeast and southwest of Sicily. Tobruk as far as Alexandria, Malta area.

III. a) ./.

- 1030 CO 1757 2 submarines. 1025 CO 9372 2 patrol vessels, easterly course. 1100 CO 9228 3 escort vessels, freighters, easterly course. 3 destroyers, course 2700 1100 CP 7279 1 torpedoboat, course 200. l submarine, course 900 1120 CO 5399 l aircraft carrier, l 1630 CH 9175 cruiser, 6 destroyérs, moderaté speed, course 900. 1720 this formation altered course to west in CH 9431 and increased speed. 1825 this formation in CH 9433; at 2005 a cruiser lay stopped in CH 9432. Contact with remainder of formation maintained until 2140. At 2110 an Italian aircraft scored a torpedo hit on the carrier, 0630 CP 7142 1 destroyer, 1 escort vessel, 4 transports, westerly course.
- c) ./.
- d) Italian Navy:

-202-

cruiser torpedoed by
Italian submarine.

0915 CH 8253 2 aircraft carriers, 1
cruiser, destroyers,
course 45°, speed 20 knots.

1330 CN 6848 1 submarine.

0650 CP 7287 1 freighter, southerly

course, 2 freighters,

westerly course,

Eastern boats:

The operational area is bounded to the north by the line connecting CO 6741 and 9313. The boats have been allocated focal points within

their north-south sector.

U 431 (Dommes) has torpedoed a steamer which had run aground in CO 9121 and proposed that it should be destroyed by our air forces. Attack by aircraft is not possible because of heavy enemy fighter activity. (Conference with Captain Aschmann).

The possibility cannot be excluded that this is the same steamer which was torpedoed by

"Heidtmann".

U 331 (Thiessenhausen) has commenced return passage to Spezia because of damage from depth charges.

Western boats:

The Italian submarine "Moncenigo" has torpedoed a cruiser from the formation which put out from Gibraltar to ferry aircraft to the east. It is now known that U-boats are operating in the Western Mediterranean. The former attack ban on enemy merchant ships is lifted for U 74 (Friedrich). The boat has been ordered to attack merchant ships which are definitely established as enemy. The ferrying formation was spotted by air reconnaissance, attacked by torpedo-carrying aircraft, and one carrier and one cruiser were torpedoed. "Friedrich" was ordered to operate against the damaged carrier.

a), b) ./. V.

(Signed) Kreisch.

19 May 1942

- U 74 CH 8150, U 559 CJ 6260, CO 5660, CO 5960, CO 6770, U 81 CO U:83. 431 CO 9120 U 565 CO U 205 CO 9240, 6880:
 - b)

- II. a) Majorca-Sardinia-Algiers-Tunis area. Westwards as far as radius of action allowed.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta area, coast from Tobruk to Alexandria.

III. a) ./.

- b) 1130 CO 5953 1 freighter, course 110°. 1315 CH 7638 carrier formation of yesterday, course 250°. 1615 CH 7649 carrier formation of yesterday, course 220°. 1706 CH 7561 carrier formation of yesterday, course 270°. 0700 CP 7262 1 steamer.
- c) Aircraft at 1713 near Alexandria: 'U-boat surfaced in CO 6756."
- d) 0600 carrier formation put in to Gibraltar.
- e) Italian Navy:
 0815 CJ 6933 i submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

The boats were detailed to operate on the convoy reported in CP 7142 by the German Air Force. The following are operating: U 205 (Reschke) and U 81 (Guggenberger) between the meridians of CO 9238, 9224. "Reschke" in the north, "Guggenberger" in the south. U 565 (Franken) and U 83 (Kraus) between the meridians in CO 9224 and CO 9133. Behind them U 431 (Dommes) between the meridians in CO 9133 and CO 6785. Northern limit of this area runs via CO 6755, CO 6885, CO 6898. The boats made no contact. The U-boat operational area as far as meridian 31° E has again been freed by the Italian Navy for our own boats.

Western boats:

The carrier formation was shadowed from the air until about 1730. The boat did not make contact.

V. a), b) ./.

20 May 1942

- I. a) U 81 CO 9250, U 205 CO 6880, U 565 CO 6870, U 83 CO 9230, U 431 CO 6780, U 331 CO 2750, U 559 CK 4810, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta area, coast from Tobruk to Alexandria.

III. a) ./.

- b) 1205 convoy put in to Tobruk.
 1250 CO 9241 2 destroyers, 2 guardboats,
 4 steamers, course 270°.
 1300 CO 6771 1 patrol vessel, westerly course.
- c) British aircraft reported a U-boat submerging at 2043 in CO 9241. Received order to attack.
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

1120 CN 3346 1 submarine. 1800 CJ 3831 1 submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

U 431 (Dommes) contacted the convoy intercepted by air reconnaissance at 1250 in CO 9241 and attacked. Then depth charge hunt.

Western boats:

The enemy formation which put to sea to ferry aircraft has put in to Gibraltar again. U 74 (Friedrich) is in his former operational area. (Pencilled note: The boat was ordered to do this. It has not reported. Intld. I.W.)

- V. a) U 431 (Dommes) torpedoed a large tanker at 2019 (3000 GRT according to German Air Force aerial photographic evaluation). Two hits.
 - b) ./.

21 May 1942

- I. a) U 81 CO 9250, U 205 CO 6880, U 565 CO 6870, U 83 CO 9240, U 431 CO 6790, U 559 CO 7850, U 331 CO 1120, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) U 568 put out from Spezia at 1700. U 331 put in to Messina at 1910.
- II. a) Coast from Algiers to Philippeville.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Crete-Tobruk-Alexandria area. Malta.

III. a) ./.

- b) 0602 CO 9243 4 escort vessels, 5
 steamers, easterly course.
 0710 CO 9241 2 patrol vessels.
 2 escort vessels, 1
 steamer put out from
 Alexandria.
 0745 CP 7276 1 escort vessel.
 0748 CO 9246 8 warships, 5 steamers,
 easterly course.
 0940 CO 5989 4 fast motor minesweepers,
 course 270°.
 1350 CN 2921 1 submarine.
- c) 1345 CO 6773 aircraft reported 1 U-boat submerged off Alexandria, course 270°.
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:
 0415 CK 7243 l submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

According to a radio intercept report one of our boats was sighted by an enemy aircraft in CO 6773. It was probably "Kraus", for "Kraus" reported, time of origin 1636, bomb damage from aircraft in CO 6776. This radio message was not received until 0614 because it was extremely corrupt. At 2330 U 83 was detailed for a special assignment. (Pencilled note: What? Intld. I.W. Landing assignment. Intld.F.)

Western boats:

U 74 (Friedrich) was requested for a situation and torpedo reserve report. Report has not been received.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

22 May 1942

- I. a) U 431 CO 6790, U 565 CO 6870, U 205 CO 6880, U 83 CO 9240, U 81 CO 9250, U 559 CO 2790, U 331 CJ 9820, U 568 CJ 5150, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia as far as Algiers.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta to Benghazi, coast from Tobruk to Alexandria.
- III. a) U 81: 1300 CO 9268 8 escort vessels, 2 steamers, course 100°, speed 7 knots. U 81: 2000 CP 7178 convoy, course 100°, speed 7 knots.
 - b) 0700 CO 2937 l submarine. 0840 2 naval vessels off Tobruk, course 70°.
 - c) Alexandria reported a surfaced U-boat in CO 9349 at 1514.
 - d) ./.
 - e) Italian Navy:

0825 CK 4751 l submarine. 1325 CO 4916 l submarine. 1108 CK 4767 l submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

U 81 (Guggenberger) at 1300 in CO 9268 contacted the convoy intercepted by air reconnaissance. At 2000 the boat gained contact again in CO 7178. No more reports have been received. U 83 (Kraus) was ordered to report by short signal if the damage suffered would prevent him carrying out the special assignment. A radio message was received from "Kraus" in the afternoon, saying that he had not received the serial numbers which contained the orders for the special assignment. In the evening "Kraus" reported by short signal that he had carried out the assignment. (Pencilled note: It should be clearly stated what special assignment. Intld.I.W.)

U 559 (Heidtmann) was given the area between the meridians of CO 6771, CO 6785 as his attack area. Northern limit is the parallel in CO 6745.

Western boats:

U 74 (Friedrich) has not yet replied to the request for a report.

Flag Officer German Naval Command has issued the following instructions for U-boat attacks during the operations of the African Panzer Army against Tobruk: All available boats (probably 5) are to be concentrated in the area off Tobruk until further notice. They are to be disposed in a sector from 0° - 90°, in the area 20 to 40 miles from Tobruk. Point of the sector - Tobruk.

V. a), b) ./.

23 May 1942

- I. a) U 81 CO 9250, U 205 CO 6880, U 565 CO 6870, U 83 CO 9240, U 431 CO 6790, U 559 CO 6770, U 568 CJ 9540, U 74 CO 8150.
 - b) U 568 put in to Messina at 1245.
- II. a) Coastal reconnaissance as far as Algiers.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta area, Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area.

III. a) ./.

- b) 0855 CO 5998 3 guardboats, westerly course.
 0920 CO 8332 3 destroyers, 2 steamers,
 westerly course.
 1525 CP 5252 1 steamer.
 0720 CO 9347 1 escort vessel, 2 freighters,
 easterly course.
 0737 CP 7235 1 minesweeper, 1 freighter,
 course 2250, speed 4 knots.
 0740 CO 9222 2 small naval vessels, courses
 varying, high speed.
- c) 0130 CO 6746 from British aircraft: 1 U-boat submerged.

 0530 CO 9254 " " : 1 U-boat surfaced.

 0720 CO 6879 " " : 1 U-boat, course 1°, speed 12 knots.
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:
 1645 CN 2555 1 submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

U 83 (Kraus) received instructions (time and position) for special operation.
U 431 (Dommes) requested constant information concerning shipping in Tobruk harbor.

Western boats:

U 74 (Friedrich) was requested to confirm receipt of radio message Serial No.514 (position and torpedo reserve report). Confirmation has still not been received.

V. a), b) ./.

The adjustment of command has been decided by Flag Officer German Naval Command Italy for the duration of the African Panzer Army's operations.

Adjustment of Command

Flag Officer, German Naval Command Italy will direct operations for Captain U-boats for the duration of naval operations from

his battle headquarters in Libya.

1) U-boats will be controlled by Captain U-boats from Rome in accordance with instructions for the boats' operations issued by Flag Officer, German Naval Command Italy from his battle headquarters in Libya.

2) Flag Officer, German Naval Command will inform U-boats direct, from his battle headquarters, concerning the situation at sea in the naval forces' operational

area off Cyrenaica.

3) U-boats will be informed by Captain U-boats concerning the situation at sea outside the operational area according

to para.2.

4) In exceptional cases, where swift redistribution of the boats is necessary as a result of information gained from reconnaissance, this will be ordered from the Flag Officer's battle headquarters in Libya, Captain U-boats being informed simultaneously.

5) Captain U-boats will assign a Staff
Officer to the Flag Officer to perform
the tasks arising as a result of the
above measures connected with the U-boats.

6) In order to provide a direct means of communication with the U-boats, the battle headquarters in Libya will switch on to the U-boat wave at both receiving and transmitting times.

Lt.Cdr.Oehrn, Senior Officer on the staff of Captain U-boats Italy has been assigned to the staff of Flag Officer, German Naval Command Italy, headquarters Derna.

FIDENTIAL

24 May 1942

- I. a) U 81 CO 9250, U 205 CO 6880, U 565 CO 6870, U 83 CO 9240, U 431 CO 6790, U 559 CO 6770, U 568 CJ 9820, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia as far as Algiers.
 - b) Malta-Benghazi area, Tobruk area.
- III: a) ./.
 - b) 1102 CO 6772 1 steamer, course 70°.
 ? CO 5683 1 submarine, course 140°, speed 6 knots.
 - c) ./.
 - d) The "Argus" put out from Gibraltar with 3 destroyers on a westerly course.
 - e) Italian Navy:
 1803 CN 6337 1 submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

U 559 (Heidtmann) has had trouble with his starboard Diesel. Since the present situation does not permit of the boat's withdrawal, and the Diesel - in spite of the trouble - is not very seriously affected, the boat has been ordered to remain in the operational area.

U 83 (Kraus) has reported the result of the reconnaissance required for the special operation.

The boats operating in the Eastern Mediterranean are to be disposed in the following order during the progress of the African Panzer Army's operations before Tobruk: "Reschke" (U 205), "Franken" (U 565), "Heidtmann" (U 559), "Guggenberger" (U 81), "Dommes" (U 431) to occupy attack areas in sectors from 00 - 900, 20 to 40 miles distant from the point of the sector, the point is CO 8323, upper left corner. "Reschke" will take the sector from 00 - 300, the other boats in the above order will occupy sectors of equal width. During the night of 25/26 May "Heidtmann" and "Dommes" will be in the western part, "Franken" and "Guggenberger" in the eastern. Change every day. "Reschke" will have freedom of

action in his allotted sector. Focal point in the south. Captain U-boats Italy. U 205 (Reschke) reported a hydrophone bearing and that he was attacked by air-craft and destroyers with depth charges. "Kraus" was given detailed instructions for the special operation.

Western boats:

U 74 (Friedrich) was again requested to report his position during the night. No report was received.

- V. a) U 74 (Friedrich) has been requested to report three times. As no radio message has been received, we must now presume the boat has been lost.
 - b) ./.

The operational headquarters of Flag Officer German Naval Command Italy at Derna now watches the Mediterranean U-boat short wave at receiving times.

VI. Lieutenant Mehl will take command of U 371 after 24 January.

(Signed) Kreisch.

25 May 1942

- I. a) U 81 CO 9250, U 205 CO 9220, U 565 CO 6870, U 83 CO 9240, U 431 CO 6790, U 559 CO 6770, U 568 CO 1150, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) U 331 put out from Messina at 1900. U 652 at 1845, U 453 put out from Pola at 1945.
- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 - b) Malta-Benghazi area, Crete area, coast from 22° E as far as Alexandria.

III. a) ./.

- b) 0938 C0 5996 1 tanker, easterly course.
 0955 C0 5976 1 steamer, westerly course.
 1000 CP 7284 2 destroyers, 2 merchant
 ships, course 300°, then
 course set for Alexandria.
 1010 CP 7163 1 submarine.
 0440 C0 6752 1 destroyer, course 270°,
 high speed.
- c) ./.
- d) From 1730 to 2145 the "Malaya" with 3 destroyers at sea east of Gibraltar.
- e) Italian Navy:

1400 CN 6849 l submarine. 1730 CJ 9177 l submarine. 2315 CJ 6989 l submarine. 0100 CO 4855 l submarine. 0750 CO 4248 l submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

"Kraus" requested information as regards how far coast is occupied by our troops. This information will be transmitted direct by Flag Officer German Naval Command, Operations Headquarters Derna. This confirms that Operations Headquarters now has its transmitter in working order also.

A radio message was received on Wave "B" from Operations Headquarters Derna, stating that "Kraus"'s special assignment has been postponed to the night of 27/28. This radio message was passed on to "Kraus" from here on the U-boat wave.

U 652 (Fraatz) must put in to port again because of damage (leaky outer muffler valve for Junkers compressor).

Western boats:

Nothing received from "Friedrich".

V. a), b) ./.

26 May 1942

- I. a) U 81 CO 9250, U 205 CO 6880, U 431 CO 6770, U 565 CO 5990, U 83 CO 5680, U 559 CO 5950, U 568 CO 5120, U 331 CO 1170, U 652 CJ 2390, U 453 CJ 3480, U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) U 652 put out from Pola at 2130.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia as far as Algiers.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta area, coast from Tobruk to Alexandria.

III. a) ./.

- b) 0950 CO 9394 4 destroyers, 6 steamers, course 290°.

 1420 CO 9349 2 destroyers, 3 escort vessels, 3 steamers, course 270°.

 1840 CO 9348 convoy, course 285°.

 0705 CO 9137 3 escort vessels, 3 steamers, course 270°.
- c) 2135 CO 6749 reconnaissance aircraft reported surfaced U-boat off Alexandria.
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

0830 CO 1971 1 submarine, course 285°, speed 10 knots.
0900 CO 1524 1 submarine, course 135°.

IV. Eastern boats:

Two Italian U-boats are temporarily operating in the area south of 32° 30' N between 26° E and 27° 30' E. The boats have received orders not to attack submarines in this area. The sector in which the boats are operating off Tobruk has been narrowed by 10°. U 205 (Reschke) is now operating in the sector from 10° - 30°. Newly arrived boats will be disposed east of the sector as far as 25° E in a sector from 90° - 70°. "Preuss" (U 568) will occupy this area.

U 331 (Thiessenhausen) reported his position by short signal from CO 2975. It is not clear why the boat is steering for the operational area via this grid square. We suspect it has been wrongly briefed in Messina by the Italian Navy.

Western boats:

Since it is possible that the reason for the absence of reports from U 74 may be due to a transmitter breakdown, and the boat otherwise in order - U 74 (Friedrich) has been ordered to return to Spezia. It should arrive in Spezia by 31 May at the latest.

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

27 May 1942

- I. a) U 81 CO 6780,
 U 568 CO 6780,
 U 431 CO 5990,
 U 565 CO 5960,
 U 559 CO 5960,
 U 205 CO 5950,
 U 83 CO 5680,
 U 331 CO 5320,
 U 453 CJ 6380,
 U 453 CJ 6380,
 U 652 CJ 3720,
 U 74 CH 8140.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, convoy route to Benghazi.
- III. a) U 83: 0215 CO 5976 2 gunboats.
 U 559: 0400 CO 59**95** destroyer putting in to port.
 - b) 0815 CP 5974 l steamer, course 225°, sinking.
 0830 CP 7336 l destroyer, l steamer, course 165°, speed 6 knots.
 1545 CP 7279 l submarine.
 1800 CP 7276 l escort vessel, course 300°, high speed.
 1900 CO 2328 l submarine?
 2300 CO 6747 l escort vessel, course 180°.

- c) 1052 CO 6781 aircraft reported surfaced U-boat off Alexandria, course 140°, speed
 5 knots.
 0710 U-boat in Mersa Matruh area,
 course 360°.
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:
 1915 CO 4286 1 submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

U 431 (Dommes) attacked a convoy successfully. A fan containing a circle runner was fired at an escort vessel and missed. Commander reported that he observed bad depth keeping with electric torpedoes. The boat has fired all its torpedoes but one, and has commenced the return passage to Salamis for this reason. U 331 (Thiessenhausen) was ordered to take up the sector previously occupied by "Dommes" as his operational area. U 568 (Preuss) is now operating alone in the sector from 90° - 70° east of the sector from 10° - 90° as far as 25° E. "Dommes" was ordered to report his estimated time of crossing 350 N and arrival at point 140 A. This report was not received during the night. U 83 (Kraus) will not carry out his special assignment during the night 27/28 May. It may be possible the following night. At 0215 "Kraus" reported 2 gunboats in CO 5976. At 0400 U 559 (Heidtmann) reported a large destroyer in CO 5995, making for Tobruk.

Western boats: ./.

- V. a) "Dommes" (U 431) attacked a formation at 1241 in CO 9112 center, and heard one hit each on a 4000-5000 GRT transport and a 3500 GRT steamer.
 - b) ./.

The following proposals are to be made to Flag Officer German Naval Command through Captain U-boats:

- 1) Consider present heavy concentration of U-boats in closest possible area expedient for only 1 2 days more.
- 2) 8 boats, including "Kraus", now in operational area, 2 more approaching.

3) Propose that the present sector be occupied by 4 boats, which should evacuate the sector to the east during nights when E-boats are operating. Remainder of boats to operate in the area as far as 28° E. As there is not a comprehensive enough picture of the traffic position here, request information as to whether fliegerfuehrer Africa has particulars.

4) After the fall of Tobruk, an operation by 3 boats off the Syrian coast might be successful, providing there are

sufficient boats.

(Signed) Kreisch.

28 May 1942

a) U 205 CO 5950, U 559 CO 5960, I. U 565 CO 5960, U 81 CO 6770, U 331 CO 6770, U 568 CO 6770, U 431 CO 5660, U 83 CO 5660, U 453 CK 4570, U 74 CH 8150.

> ·b) ./.

II. a) Same as on previous day.

> b) Convoy routes to Benghazi, Malta area, Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area.

a) ../. III.

> b) 28 May 0500 CO 5999 1 destroyer, 1 merchant ship, making for Tobruk.

0635 CO 5986 2 M.T.B.s, course 210°, high speed.
0705 CP 8129 1 steamer, course 90°. CP 7282 3 tankers, course 2400.

0730 CO 8338 1 patrol vessel, course 900, speed 10 knots.

.0740 CO 5999 2 escort vessels, 1 steamer, course 2700,

speed 10 knots.
0750 CO 5989 1 destroyer, course 90°, high speed.

0755 CP 7341 4 destroyers, 4 large steamers, course 270°, speed 16 knots.

0925 CO 8333 1 escort vessel, 3 escorts, 1 steamer, course 90°, speed 10 knots.

1645 CO 9137 2 destroyers, 4 escorts, 1 steamer, course 90°.

0027 CP 7177 3 units, course 280°.

0100 CO 9113 1 large warship, 3 destroyers, course 270°.

0250 CO 6788 2 minesweepers, course 270°.

0300 CO 6781 1 destroyer, 1 small naval vessel, course 90°.

c) 0806 ground station ordered aircraft to attack U-boat in CO 9113.
1826 aircraft reported U-boat submerging in CO 5968.
1940 shore station reported submerged U-boat in CO 6786.
1955 aircraft reported surfaced U-boat in CO 5993.

- d) The cruiser "Charybdis" with 2 destroyers put out from Gibraltar on an easterly course at 2000.
- e) Italian Navy:

1035 CO 1554 l submarine. 1715 CO 1857 l submarine. 0315 CO 4591 l submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

U 431 (Dommes) sent a situation report. He reported that traffic is running in shallow water and that prospects of success are greater in Sollum Bay and where deep water reaches to the coast, U 83 (Kraus) reported between 0030 and 0230 during the night 27/28 May, 2 large gunboats firing starshells lay at the rendezvous for the special assignment. Only possible to operate in Gulf of Banba when submerged. Boat is withdrawing for bottom and side repairs by a diver. Boat is at present nonoperational. After Captain U-boats had enquired from Flag Officer German Naval Command whether a substitute for "Kraus" was necessary, U 83 was informed by the battle headquarters Derna (Flag Officer German Naval Command) that the special assignment would be carried out without a U-boat, and that Captain U-boats would control the boat's further operations.

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U 83 reported that it was not possible to work overboard for any length of time because of air activity, and multi-unit hydrophones were completely unserviceable. Boat requested permission to put in to Derna or Salamis for a short call. U 83 has been ordered to make for Salamis. It may be concluded from a radio intercept report that the enemy knows the point where the landing is to be carried out.

Western boats: ./.

V., a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

29 May 1942

- I. a) U 431 CO 2670,
 U 83 CO 5370,
 U 205 CO 5950,
 U 559 CO 5960,
 U 565 CO 5960,
 U 81 CO 6770,
 U 331 CO 6770,
 U 568 CO 6770,
 U 453 CK 7540,
 U 652 CK 4870,
 U 74 CH 8150.
 - b) U 83 at 0750, U 431 put in to Salamis at 0655.
- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 - b) Malta area, Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area.

III. a) ./.

b) 0820 CO 5952 1 unit, course 290°, high speed.

0815 CP 7421 2 units, 1 M.T.B., course 280°, high speed.

0815 CO 9269 2 units, course 90°.

0815 CO 9373 1 steamer, 3 escort vessels.

1330 CH 5965 1 cruiser, 2 destroyers, course 90°, speed 16 knots.

1645 CH 6786 1 cruiser, 2 destroyers, course 65°, speed 20 knots.

2013 CH 6781 1 cruiser, 2 destroyers, course 240°.

2120 north of Tobruk, 2 units, course 300°.

0320 CO 5975 3 units, course 270°.
0320 CO 5999 1 escort vessel, 1 steame course 90°.
0415 CO 5656 1 small unit, course 270°.
0600 - 0700 patrol vessels (5-7) off Tobruk, courses varying.
0730 CP 5977 1 gunboat, 4 steamers, course 210°, speed 8 knct

- c) 1643 CO 9113 ground station transmitte Surfaced U-boat, course
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

1320 CH 5931 the cruiser group.
1430 CH 6771 the cruiser group,
course 60°.
1600 CJ 7125 1 submarine.
2036 CO 3194 1 submarine, course 180°.
2300 CH 9162 the cruiser group.
0630 CO 7229 1 submarine.

IV. Eastern boats:

Flag Officer German Naval Command has sent the following radio message to the boats: "Heavy fighting continues southwest of Tobruk. It is vitally important that Totrishould remain cut off from the sea. The close disposition makes heavy demands on the crews during the bright moonlight nights. Battery charging will only be possible to a limited extent. Two or three enemy aircraft operating in the confined area are enough to force all the boats to submerge. Since the concentrated disposit was only intended to last a few days, Caul-boats has once more proposed to the Floofficer spreading out the boats off Totru

Western boats: ./.

V. a), b) ./.

30 May 1942

- I. a) U 568 CO 6770, U 81 CO 6770, U 331 CO 6770, U 565 CO 5960, U 559 CO 5960, U 205 CO 5950, U 83 CO 8950, U 431 CO 8950, U 453 CO 2720, U 652 CO 7850.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Western Mediterranean as far as radius of action allowed.
 - b) Malta area, Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area.
- III. a) U 331: 0830 CO 9124 armored ferries inshore.
 - b) 0800 CO 5989 3 destroyers. 1830 7 small steamers and escorts off Alexandria, lying stopped.
 - c) 1821 CO 9112 surfaced U-boat reported.
 - d) The cruiser "Charybdis" put in to Gibraltar at 1900.
 - e) ./.

IV. Eastern boats:

U 453 (Schlippenbach) has been ordered to occupy the southern half of the area east of the sector off Tobruk in a sector 70° - 90° as far as 25° E. Nothing to report.

Western boats: ./.

V. a), b) ./.

31 May 1942

- I. a) U 453 CO 5930, U 205 CO 5950, U 559 CO 5950, U 565 CO 5960, U 81 CO 6770, U 331 CO 6770, U 568 CO 6770, U 652 CO 2750.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Algiers-Balearic Islands-Sardinia-Tunis area.
 - b) Malta area. Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area.

III. a) ./.

- b) 0835 CO 6745 4 M.T.B.s ?, 1 escort vessel, course 270°. 0855 2 minesweepers off Tobruk. 0855 CO 9112 1 guardboat, 4 small transports, course 270°. 0856 CP 7246 2 fast motorminesweepers, course 100°. CP 7193 1 destroyer, course 340°, high speed. 0633 CO 9244 2 escort vessels, course 250°. 5999 l patrol vessel, l steamer, 0645 CO course 270°, speed 6 knots. 0700 CP 7279 1 steamer, course 270°. 0733 CP 8139 1 torpedoboat, 4 steamers, course 900. 0734 CP 8247 6 steamers, course 0° .
- c), d), e) ./.

IV. Eastern boats:

Flag Officer German Naval Command has agreed to Captain U-boats' proposal regarding the spreading out of the U-boat disposition. Boats will operate in following areas:
U 205 (Reschke) in the 10° - 40° sector.
U 559 (Heidtmann) in 40° - 60°.
U 81 (Guggenberger) in 60° - 75°.
U 331 (Thiessenhausen) in 75° - 90°.
U 453 (Schlippenbach) east of the sector as far as the meridian of CO 6784, the northern limit the parallel in CO 6748, the southern limit the coast, focal point in the south.

U 568 (Preuss), U 565 (Franken) and U 652 (Fraatz) in that order will occupy the area between the meridians of CO 6784 and CO 6871, the northern limit the parallel of CO 6755, the southern limit the coast. Southern limit for "Preuss" the parallel in CO 6792, for "Franken" the parallel of CO 4132, "Fraatz" south of this. Further spreading eastward is not possible because of the limit set by Flag Officer German Naval Command. U 331 (Thiessenhausen) sighted 4 armcred ferries at 0830 in CO 9124, right inshore. At 1040 the boat fired a surface fan that missed at an armored ferry in CO 9111. U 81 (Guggenberger) and U 565 (Franken) were requested for short situation reports. Both reports have been received. U 81 reported: "Traffic slight, consisting of escort vessels and hospital ships. Air patrols especially during the night." U 565 reported: "No traffic in former sector, only close inshore. Little air activity, still 2 bow, 1 stern electric torpedoes."

Western boats:

U 74 has not returned, and must be presumed lost. (See German Naval Command Italy Most Secret S.O.s only No. 281/42 File IIc S.O.s only with Captain U-boats Italy.)

V. a), b) ./.



WAR DIARY

<u>of</u>

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

<u>1 - 15 JUNE, 1942</u>

PG/30925



1 June 1942

- a) U 205 CO 5960, U 559 CO 5960, U 81 CO 5990, U 331 CO 6770, U 453 CO 6740, U 568 CO 6750, U 565 CO 6790, U 652 CO 9130.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Coast of Africa from Algiers to Tunis, Western Mediterranean as far as radius of action allowed.
 - b) Malta area, coast from Tobruk to Alexandria.

III. a) ./.

- c) 0340 CO 9126 British aircraft reported:

 "Am over enemy U-boat."

 0652 CO 6798 submerged U-boat, course 100°,

 speed 3 knots.

 1130 CO 6786 surfaced U-boat, course 270°.
- d) The "Eagle" and the "Charybdis" put out from Gibraltar at 0700 for the east, they put in to port at 1600.
- e) Italian Navy:

1245 CO 2338 1 submarine.
0200 CH 5915 1 destroyer, course 40°, speed
30 knots.

IV. Eastern boats:

As the operations of our own E-boats in the area off Tobruk have to be taken into account, our U-boats have been instructed to move away or to submerge after the announcement of such operations.

U 205 (Reschke) was asked to make a position report. The boat reported small patrol vessels from time to time, air patrols at night.

It is intended to allow U 81 (Guggenberger) to commence the return passage after 30 days at sea. "Guggenberger" reported that he was still fully operational and had 6 torpedoes left. He requested

permission either to remain in the operational area until approximately 12 June or for replenishment in Salamis for a short operation.

Captain U-boats considers that the present disposition of the boats is ineffective and that in view of the heavy demands made on the boats together with the risks they are being exposed to, it cannot be maintained any longer. For these reasons the following radio messages were sent to the Flag Officer:

- 1) The unsuccessful nature of the U-bcat operation up to date, even though a large number of boats took part, invites the conclusion that the disposition is not effective enough and that its disadvantages are as follows:
 - a) The concentration off Tobruk leaves the whole remaining sea area completely unguarded, especially if the disposition were to be discovered by the enemy, and this we already suspect.
 - b) As far as we can gather from our data, the traffic runs directly under the coast in shallow water. The boats in other sectors, therefore, cannot be brought to bear.
 - c) Boats operating in a restricted area are in a very dangerous position especially during moonlight nights, and the crew is put to a severe strain.
- 2) Provided the fall of Tobruk is not imminent, it is proposed to widen out the disposition over the entire operational area as far as 30° E. Concentration in the south. Supply traffic and enemy naval forces should thus be successfully intercepted. U-boats should be subjected to less strain and danger. Captain U-boats.

To Flag Officer German Naval Command:
After conferring personally with "Kraus" and
"Dommes", I consider, in agreement with Captain
U-boats, that it is no longer possible to
maintain the U-boats in tight formation during
the lunar period. So much has been demanded of
the boats, they seem to have reached breaking
point, and successes are hardly to be expected.
From Chief of Staff.

The Mexican Government has declared war on Germany.

V. a), b) ./.

2 June 1942

- a) U 205 CO 5950, U 559 CO 5960, U 81 CO 5990, I.

 U
 81
 CO
 5990,

 U
 453
 CO
 6770,

 U
 331
 CO
 6770,

 U
 652
 CO
 6780,

 U
 565
 CO
 6790,

 U
 568
 CO
 6760.
 - b) ./.
- a) Same as on previous day. II.
 - b) Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area, area south of Malta.

a) ./. III.

- b) 0835 CP 7351 1 steamer, course 120°. 0845 CP 7361 1 destroyer, 1 steamer, course 900. 0105 CO 5971 2 steamers, course 180°. 0135 CO 5981 2 patrol vessels, course 270°. 0635 CH 5983 the "Eagle", 1 cruiser, 3 destroyers, course 2000.
- c) 1356 CO 6781 reconnaissance aircraft reported surfaced U-boat, course 3000, speed 5 knots. 1420 CO 6718 same machine reported surfaced U-boat, course 1800, speed 5 knots.
- d) At 0400 the "Eagle" with the "Charybdis" put out from Gibraltar for the east.
- e) Italian Navy: 0900 CN 2947 1 U-boat.
- IV. For the information of Flag Officer German Naval Command the following radio message was transmitted from Captain U-boats:
 - 1) Situation. Seven U-boats in the operational area, not counting "Fraatz". Of these, "Guggenberger", "Franken" and "Reschke" have been at sea for more than 26 days.

2) "Kraus" and "Dommes" are in Salamis, they are ready to put out, presumably on 3 June.
3) "Fraatz" still cannot submerge and is unfit

for operational duty.

4) To "Guggenberger"'s radio message Serial No. 594, propose replenishment in Salamis and another short operation before a complete overhaul.

5) Request permission for "Kraus" and "Dommes" to operate off the Syrian coast, as the information available on the enemy suggests that this would be the best way of using the remaining fighting strength of the boats, as they would otherwise only be able to remain in the operational area off Africa for a short time, owing to the heavy demands on personnel and material already made on them. The operation off the Syrian coast would also be psychologically to the advantage of these two particularly deserving crews.

Flag Officer German Naval Command Italy has directed that the U-boat disposition is to be extended and that the entire Tobruk-Alexandria area is available for operations.

The boats are to be disposed in patrol lines running from north to south, as follows:

U 205 (Reschke) between the meridians of CO 8333

and CO 9113. U 565 (Franken) between the meridians of CO 9113 and CO 9123.

U 331 (Thiesserhausen) between the meridians of CO 9123 and CO 9215.

2 Italian U-boats between the meridians of

CO 9215 and CO 9346. U 453 (Schlippenbach) between the meridians of 00 9343 and 00 9365.

U 559 (Heidtmann) between the meridians of CO 9365 and CP 7185.

U 568 (Preuss) between the meridians of CP 7185 and CP 7195.

The northern limit for our boats is the line 30 miles from and parallel to the coast.

U 568 (Preuss) was requested to make a situation report. No report has been received.

It is intended to replenish U 205 and U 565 in Salamis. They will set out on approximately 5 June. This intention was transmitted to the boats together with the request to report whether they were in urgent need of more extensive repairs. "Reschke" reported that the state of the boat would permit replenishing in Salamis and that a major overhaul would be required after a further short operation, "Franken" reported that the boat would soon be requiring more extensive repairs.

. Loss of U 652

Commander - Lieutenant (J.G.) Fraatz

At 0650 a radio intercept report was received stating that at 0340 the enemy aircraft "C 5 S L" in 31° 56' N, 25° 18' E was over a U-boat.

Shortly after, at 0700, the following radio message was received from "Fraatz": "0332/2/597 from "Fraatz". Unable to dive, limited ability to proceed, grid square 9134, help urgently required."

On the strength of this radio message, the boats in his vicinity, U 565, U 568, U 453 were ordered to go to "Fraatz"'s assistance.

Simultaneously C-in-C South was asked to provide air escort for the boat. As this could not be provided immediately, Fliegerführer Africa was requested direct for air cover by radio message to Flag Officer German Naval Command, pattle headquarters Derna.

At 0710 the following radio message was received from "Fraatz":
"0514/2/596 from "Fraatz". Still unable to dive. No radio reception. Am withdrawing to the north. Only starboard Diesel in partial working order. "Franken" - look out for signals and searchlights."

It is possible that the boats detailed to the rescue operation (U 565, U 568, U 453) did not receive the message ordering them to go to the assistance of "Fraatz" because they were submerged. The boats were therefore ordered to confirm the radio message (0715/2/599) by short signal "yes".

At 0745 the following radio message was received from "Fraatz":
"0650/2/598 from "Fraatz". Gas in all compartments. Request towing assistance. Am lying on northern side of Sollum Bay.
Impossible to navigate. Am making for south coast of Crete."

At 0815 C-in-C South sanctioned air cover for "Fraatz" to be provided by Fliegerführer Africa. This information was sent out to the boats.

At 0840 the following radio message without a signature was received: "0750/2/501. Am escorting "Fraatz". Course 20°. Speed 6 knots. Have taken non-essential members of the crem on board, grid square 6783. Request for support;"

At 1020 a short signal was received from U 81. The boat reported:
"Am maintaining contact."
After the receipt of this radio message it was assumed by Captain U-boats that there were two boats with "Fraatz", for it was impossible to tell from radio message 0750/2/501 who sent it. To make certain

whether this assumption was correct, the following radio message was transmitted to the boats: "1105/2/508

1) It is assumed from short signal from U 81, that apart from the boat which sent the radio message, serial number 501, "Guggenberger" is also standing by "Fraatz".

2) Who sent serial number 501?
U 565 reported "yes" by short signal. This boat did, therefore, receive the radio message ordering him to the rescue.

At 1255 the following radio message was received from "Guggenberger": "1055/2/507 from U 81. 1050 in 6758 U 652 scuttled as it was no longer seaworthy. Entire crew on board. Am making for Salamis. 35° N will be passed at 0000/3 June."

During the night "Guggenberger" reported that at 1200 in CO 6725 a fan of four torpedoes was fired at him by an enemy submarine.

V. a) ./.

b) U 652 (Fraatz) was scuttled at 1050 in CO 6758 after the crew had been transferred to U 81, because the boat, as a result of damage sustained, was no longer seaworthy.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 568 CP 7430, U 559 CP 7170, U 453 CO 9350, U 331 CO 9130, U 565 CO 9120, U 205 CO 6770, U 81 CO 2640.
 - b) U 81 put in to Salamis at 1645.
- II. a) Balearic Islands-Algiers-Tunis-Sardinia area.
 Western Mediterranean as far as radius of
 action allowed.
 - b) Malta area, coast from Tobruk to Alexandria.

III. a) ./.

- b) 0820 CO 6777 2 steamers, 2 escort vessels, course 2250, speed 6 knots.

 1448 CH 8185 latest report of carrier formation, course 2700, speed 30 knots.

 2256 CO 5989 l destroyer, 1 steamer, course 1200.

 0350 CO 6787 2 small vessels, course 900.

 CO 6778 l destroyer, course 2700.

 0635 CO 9218 4 guardboats, 2 steamers, course 1050.

 0645 CO 6772 l escort vessel, course 200.

 CO 6797 l escort vessel, course 2700.

 0655 CO 9121 2 escort vessels, course 900.

 0700 CO 9111 2 escort vessels, l steamer, course 900.

 0715 CO 5989 4 steamers, course 2100.

 0745 CP 7252 l destroyer, l steamer, course 2400, speed 6 knots.
- c) ./.
- d) 1 cruiser and 1 destroyer put in to Gibraltar from the west.
- e) Italian Navy:
 0705 CO 4667 l submarine.
- IV. Battle headquarters Derna sent information that an E-boat operation was planned for the night of 3/4 June west of 24° 40' E. The boats are being informed.

U 568 (Preuss) was asked to report for the second time. No report has been received.

U 331 (Thiessenhausen) and U 453 (Schlippenbach) gave a short situation report after being requested to do so.
U 331 reported: "No traffic, strong air patrols."
U 453 reported: "No traffic, strong air patrols during the night."

V. a), b) ./.

4 June 1942 :

- I. a) U 568 CP 7430, U 559 CP 7170, U 453 CO 9350, U 331 CO 9130, U 565 CO 9120, U 205 CO 6770, U 81 CO 2640.
 - b) U 81 and U 431 put out from Salamis at 1700.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Malta area, Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area.
- - U 453: 2302 CO 9381 convoy, 6-8 escort vessels and destroyers and 3 steamers, course 90°.

 0100 CO 9391 convoy according to hydrophone bearing.
 - b) 0907 CO 5984 2 guardboats, 1 steamer, course 0°.
 0935 CO 9135 2 steamers, course 270°.
 0752 CP 7196 1 escort vessel.
 - c) 1640 CO 9259 British aircraft reported:
 "U-boat sighted".
 2259 CO 9357 British aircraft reported:
 "Surfaced U-boat".
 0520 CP 8413 British aircraft reported:
 "Surfaced U-boat".
 - d) ./.
 - e) Italian Navy:
 2105 CO .. 1 submarine.
- IV. U 331 (Thiessenhausen) gained contact at 1100 with an eastbound convoy. The boat maintained contact during the hours of daylight. Last report was at 2001. At 2205 U 453 (Schlippenbach) reported the convoy in CO 9381. At 2309 "Schlippenbach" reported the convoy in CO 9382. Fired two fans which missed, 3 steamers, 6 to 8 escort vessels and destroyers, course 900.

At 0040 "Thiessenhausen" reported that he had fired a fan of three at an escort vessel and heard two hits. While shadowing to-day, he was forced to submerge three times because of aircraft. At 0100 "Schlippenbach" reported that he had been forced to withdraw. According to hydrophone bearing the convoy was in CO 9391. At 0328 a short signal was picked up by the control station, but it could not be read. The boat was requested to transmit the signal again. No signal has been received.

Flag Officer German Naval Command has issued the following instructions:

- 1) In the next few days a series of E-boat operations will be undertaken in the area west of the meridian of "Ras Assaz". No further detailed information will be given. There will not be any of our U-boats in this area. In the event of direct enemy pursuit our U-boats may enter the area, but they must report this immediately. E-boats will then be forbidden to undertake any anti-submarine measures.
- 2) The area east of "Ras Assaz" as far as the Italian U-boat attack area is to be occupied by two boats. If necessary they may withdraw into the Italian U-boat area.
- 3) The area east of the Italian U-boats remains occupied as before.
- 4) Concur with plan to send one boat to the coast of Palestine. The attack area chosen will be south of 33° N; concentrating on the sea route between Alexandria and Port Said.
- 5) Concur with "Bartel"'s operation within the proposed time limit.
- V. a) U 331 (Thiessenhausen) fired a fan of three torpedoes at a convoy vessel and heard two hits.
 - b) ./.

5 June 1942

- I. a) U 568 CP 7430, U 559 CP 7170, U 453 CO 9380, U 331 CO 9160, U 565 CO 9120, U 205 CO 6770, U 431 CO 2830, U 81 CO 2830.
 - b) U 77 put out from Spezia at 0010.
- II. a) Algiers-Majorca-Sardinia-Tunis area.
 - b) Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area. Malta area.
- III. a) U 331: 2023 CO 9135 2 destroyers making for the east.
 - b) 1255 CO 6771 3 escort vessels, 3 patrol vessels, 6 steamers, making for Tobruk.

 1620 CP 7187 2 guardboats, course 270°.
 0500 CO 9111 1 patrol vessel, course 90°.
 0644 CO 5989 4 patrol vessels, 2 steamers, course 180°.
 0635 CO 9393 2 patrol vessels, course 90°.
 0640 CP 7264 1 destroyer, 2 M.T.B.s, course 225°.
 0645 CP 4911 1 destroyer, 2 M.T.B.s, course 22°.
 0655 CP 5951 2 torpedoboats, 1 tanker, course 0°.
 0735 CP 7281 1 steamer, course 300°.
 0735 CP 7272 2 destroyers, course 105°.
 0735 CP 7422 2 patrol vessels, course 90°.
 - c) 2326 CP 7143 British aircraft over a U-boat.
 - d), e) ./.
- IV. On the strength of instructions from Flag Officer German Naval Command, the area east of the attack area of the Italian U-boats will be occupied as follows:

U 431 (Dommes) between the meridians of CO 6784 and CO 6795.

U 331 (Thiessenhausen) adjoining it as far as the meridian of CO 6879. The line 30 miles from and parallel to the coast is still the northern limit.

The boats have been informed of the proposed E-boat operations and instructed that if they cross the meridian of CO 9124 to the west, they are to confirm this by short signal (U.S.X.V.).

U 83 (Kraus) was ordered to operate in the area south of 33° N from 29° 10' E as far as the Palestine coast.

U 205 (Reschke) and U 565 (Franken) are returning. "Franken" is proceeding to Spezia for an overhaul in dock; "Reschke" to Salamis for short repairs.

U 83 (Kraus) has passed 35° N to the south.

"Thiessenhausen" at 2022 reported two destroyers on an easterly course in CO 9135.

U 453 (Schlippenbach) fired a fan of two multiple shots at 2258 on 4 June at 3 over-lapping steamers, apart from the two unsuccessful fans already reported on 4 June, Nothing was observed except loud sinking noises at 0330.

U 559 (Heidtmann) reported that the short signal which could not be understood yesterday reported the position of "Thiessenhausen" s convoy.

"Schlippenbach" was attacked by aircraft with bombs and depth charges. The boat is still able to operate.

U 559 (Heidtmann) was ordered to send a 'short situation report.

U 568 (Preuss) was asked for the third time to report his position. A signal was received from "Heidtmann", but still none from "Preuss".

V. a) U 453 (Schlippenbach) fired a fan of two multiple shots at three overlapping steamers. Range 1,000 meters. Nothing was observed, except loud sinking noises at 0330.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 568 CP 7430, U 559 CP 7170, U 453 CO 9350, U 331 CO 9210, U 431 CO 6780, U 83 CO 6580, U 205 CO 6710, U 565 CO 5210, U 77 CJ 1960.
 - b) U 81 put out from Salamis at 1800.

- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 Malta area, Crete-Tobruk-Alexandria area.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 0900 l steamer put in to Tobruk with escort vessels.
 2340 C0 6749 l freighter on fire.
 0423 C0 5986 l steamer, course 90°.
 - c) ./.
 - d) 2150 l destroyer put out from Gibraltar for the east.
 - e) ./.
 - IV. U 431 (Dommes) reported that two Ju 88s landed near him. He presumed that it was a crash landing. It later turned out that these two aircraft were supposed to be escorting a damaged Italian U-boat. "Dommes" was ordered to continue passage.
 - V. a) ./.
 - b) U 568 (Preuss) has still not reported after being requested to do so three times. The boat must be presumed lost.
 - U 79 (Kaufmann) is reported missing for the second time with effect from 23 December 1941. All the crew of 44 men have been taken prisoner. The boat was lost during operations against the convoy.
 - U 75 (Ringelmann) is reported missing for the second time, with effect from 28 December 1941. The boat was lost during the attack on the convoy. Of the crew of 46, 16 including the Commander were killed, 30 are prisoners of war.
 - U 374 (v. Fischel) is reported missing for the second time, with effect from 12 January 1942. Details of the loss are not known. 1 rating was taken prisoner. 42 men are unaccounted for.

7 June 1942

- I. a) U 83 CP 7230,
 U 568 CP 7430,
 U 559 CP 7170,
 U 453 CO 9350,
 U 331 CO 9210,
 U 431 CO 6790,
 U 81 CO 5230,
 U 205 CO 2830,
 U 565 CO 1190,
 U 77 CJ 9820.
 - b) U 205 made fast in Salamis at 0630. U 77 put in to Messina at 1300. U 565 put in to Messina at 1735.
- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 - b) Malta area, triangle of Tobruk, Crete, Alexandria.

III. a) ./.

- b) 0826 CO 9121 2 small naval vessels, course 270°.

 0845 CP 7285 2 escort vessels, course 0°.

 CP 7281 1 escort vessel.

 0915 CP 8317 1 gunboat, 1 steamer, course 240°.

 1025 CO 6779 2 destroyers, course 90°.

 1820 CO 6991 1 destroyer, course 280°.
- c) 0912 CP 8254 the convoy reported an air attack.
 1057 CO 9213 patch of oil (submarine), course 9°, unsuccessfully attacked by aircraft
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

0000 naval forces north of Derna,

- IV. U 81 (Guggenberger), after sending a passage report, was ordered to proceed via CO 6735 and CO 6991 to the attack area between the meridians of CP 7185 and 7199 with the parallel of CP 7155 as its northern boundary.
- V. a), b) ./.

8 June 1942

- I. a) U 83 CP 8120, U 559 CP 7170, U 453 CO 9350, U 331 CO 9210, U 431 CO 6780, U 81 CO 6410, U 565 CJ 9820, U 77 CJ 9870.
 - b) U 77 put out from Messina at 1630. U 565 put out from Messina at 1910.
- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 - b) Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area, Malta area.

III. a) ./.

- b) 0845 CP 7259 1 destroyer, 1 tanker, course 240°.

 0850 CP 7265 1 destroyer, 3 steamers, course 240°.

 1646 CP 7285 1 steamer, northeasterly course.

 1710 CJ 8915 1 submarine?.
- c) 2337 CO 9352 British aircraft attacked U-boat.
- d) 0900, the "Eagle" with a cruiser of the "Cairo" class and 6 destroyers put out from Gibraltar for the east.
- e) Italian Navy:

0445 CJ 9332 l submarine. 0550 CJ 4714 l submarine. 1940 CO 3728 l submarine.

IV. a) U 453 (Schlippenbach) reported that he was attacked in CO 4357 by an aircraft. No damage. Freedom of action for anti-submarine measures in the area between the points CO 4749 to CO 1839 to CO 1995 to CO 1913 to CO 0537 from here, bearing 180° as far as the coast. U-boats are forbidden to enter this area.

V. a) ./.

b) In Naval High Command, Naval War Staff First Division 20518/42 Secret, it is learnt from German Espionage Agency Spain that:
"According to an unconfirmed agent's report of 1 June 1942, 30 prisoners from a German U-boat, 4 of them slightly wounded, are said to have been brought in to Gibraltar. The U-boat is believed to have been sunk in the Mediterranean."

Additional Note by Captain U-boats

As no date is given for when the prisoners were taken to Gibraltar, it is possible that they are members of the crew of U 74. As U 74 did not answer on 21 May the first request for a situation report, it may be assumed, in the absence of other information that the boat was lost before this date.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- a) U 83 CP 8120, U 81 CP 7190, U 559 CP 7170, U 453 CO 9350, U 331 CO 9210, U 431 CO 6780, U 77 CO 1410, U 565 CJ 9510.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 - b) Same as on previous day.
- III. a) U 81: 0127 CP 7422 convoy, westerly course, speed 8-10 knots.

 0315 CP 7184 convoy.

 0350 CP 7184 3 steamers, 2 escort vessels, westerly course, speed 8 knots.
 - b) 0820 CO 9217 1 escort vessel, easterly course.
 0847 CP 7412 3 escort vessels, 1 steamer,
 easterly course.

 1032 CP 5431 1 steamer, course 90°.
 0825 CH 8352 Force H, course 260°, speed 18-20 knots.

 1330 CH 8192 Force H, course 270°, speed 24 knots.
 1500 CH 8132 1 cruiser, course 45°, speed 24 knots.
 1100 CO 5989 2 escort vessels, 1 steamer, westerly course.
 1438 CP 7521 1 escort vessel, 1 tanker, course 270°.
 1841 CP 7284 5 escort vessels, 3 steamers, course 90°.

- 0657 CO 9215 3 patrol vessels, course 0°. 0700 CO 8332 2 patrol vessels, course 90°.
- c) 1615 CO 9243 British aircraft reported surfaced U-boat, course 290°.
 0341 CO 9388 British aircraft reported surfaced U-boat.
 1200 CP 5668 Haifa reported surfaced U-boat.
- d) 2130, 1 destroyer put out from Gibraltar for the east.
- e) ./.
- IV. U 331 (Thiessenhausen) reported by short signal five M.T.B.s on an easterly course at 1305 in CO 9135. The boats have been informed that during the night of 9/10 June our E-boats are operating against a convoy reported by radio intercept service and that they may, therefore, enter the operational area of our U-boats.

At 0127, U 81 (Guggenberger) reported a convoy in CP 7422 on a westerly course, speed 8-10 knots. "Guggenberger" shadowed the convoy and reported it in CP 7184 at 0315. At 0350, "Guggenberger" reported:

"Convoy, 3 steamers, 2 escort vessels assembled in CP 7184, westerly course, speed 8 knots. Am withdrawing to the north. May I operate in CO 92?"

The boats received freedom of action in CO 92.

- V. a), b) ./.
- VI. a) Mediterranean Operational Order No.5 has been issued for the special operation to be undertaken off Port Said by U 561 (Bartels) on the instructions of Flag Officer Naval Command. (As in reference number 299 S.O.s only.)

With reference to the choice of the sea area to be mined the following considerations were discussed:

1) There are no details available of the effects of the first minelaying operation on the outward route from Port Said. Both from the British directions for approaching Port Said and from the sailing directions, the boats are to strive to reach deep water by the shortest possible route from the approach buoy. It is assumed that the enemy, suspecting mines, will be exerting himself to sweep his outward route to have it in use again as soon as possible. It is possible to deviate to the west and east away from the approach buoy temporarily or for a longer period. The new mines to be laid must, therefore, also threaten the possible enemy diversion routes.

- 2) The area mined in the April operation, for reasons of safety, cannot be re-entered for further minelaying. Any new minelaying operation must keep at least three miles away from the first minefield to avoid endangering the U-boat laying the mines.
- 3) We are restricted by the number and type of mines at our disposal. T.M.C. mines can only be used in a depth of water up to 30 meters, T.M.B. mines only in a depth of water up to 20 meters.
- 4) Having compared the rival claims of 1 3 the following solution has been reached:
 - a) For the next minelaying operation:
 - 1) Strengthening of the minefield already laid on the outward route north of the existing minefield so as to cover any route due west of the existing mined area. Only T.M.C. mines can be used because the water is 30 meters deep.
 - 2) Using T.M.B. mines in water less than 20 meters deep to mine a route leading to the west and northwest, roughly from the approach buoy.
 - b) For the operation next but one: Same solution as in a) but east and northeast of the mined area.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 83 CP 8120, U 81 CP 7160, U 559 CP 7180, U 453 CO 6970, U 431 CO 6780, U 331 CO 9130, U 77 CO 9120.
 - b) U 565 (Franken) put in to Spezia at 0910.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Malta area, Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area.

III. a) U 81: 1820 CO 9347 2 escort vessels, 1 patrol vessel, 2 steamers, course 280°, speed 7 knots.

> 2205 CO 9256 convoy. U 431:

- U 431: 0125 CO 9251 convoy. U 83: 0730 CP 5957 1 escort vessel, 1 tanker, course 200°.
- b) 1335 CO 4673 1 submarine, course 0°. 1703 CO 9166 2 barges?, westerly course. 1720 CO 9348 2 escort vessels, 3 patrol vessels, 2 freighters, course 90°. 1745 CP 7129 1 destroyer, 1 M.T.B., 2 tugs, 2 small vessels, 1 freighter in tow, easterly course.
- c) 1915 CO 9215 U-boat attacked by aircraft.
- d), e) ./.
- U 559 (Heidtmann) came upon the convoy and IV. reported that it was in CP 7178 on a westerly course at 0700 and attacked it successfully. U 453 (Schlippenbach), U 559 (Heidtmann), U 81 (Guggenberger), U 431 (Dommes) and U 331 (Thiessenhausen) were ordered to operate on the convoy. U 81 and U 453 attacked and scored hits, U 453 (Schlippenbach) reported after the attack that he had two stern electric torpedoes left and requested permission to return to Salamis. The boat was ordered to continue operating on the convoy. At 1945 "Schlippenbach" sent the following short signal: "Am making a diversion to the north". Presumably because of defense measures. At 1820, U 81 (Guggenberger) reported 2 freighters, 2 escort vessels, 1 patrol vessel in CO 9347. U 331 (Thiessenhausen) has been damaged by bombing. He was ordered to start the return passage to Spezia at dawn on 11 June. The boats were informed that none of our E-boats will be operating during the night of 10/11 June. At 2205, U 431 (Dommes) gained contact with the convoy, attacked it successfully and reported again at 0125.

U 331 (Thiessenhausen) at 0248 requested a beacon signal from "Dommes". U 77 (Schonder) was detailed to the area between the meridians of CO 6784 and CO 4135 as his attack area. Northern limit is a line 30 miles from and parallel to the coast.

An unintelligible short signal was received from U 83 (Kraus), (Probably report of a success).

U 453 (Schlippenbach) reported his position at 0700 by short signal from CO 6974. Presumably he did not continue operating on the convoy during. the night.

V. a) U-559 (Heidtmann) reported that he torpedoed a tanker of 6000 GRT and a steamer of 4000 GRT. The tanker is on fire, the steamer is being towed. A sinking tanker was observed in CP 7187.

U 453 (Schlippenbach) reported a fan fired at a freighter in CO 9359, hit heard.

U 81 (Guggenberger) reported having sunk a tanker of 6000 GRT.

U 431 (Dommes) reported having heard two hits after firing a fan of four.

According to air reconnaissance and these reports the present situation is as follows:

1) "Guggenberger" has sunk a tanker of 6000 GRT. The sinking was observed by "Heidtmann".

- 2) "Heidtmann" has torpedoed a tanker of 6000 GRT and a steamer of 4000 GRT. According to a photograph the steamer was a cargo-carrying passenger ship. While sinking, a fire broke out on board, the crew was taken on board a protective vessel. At 1745 the tanker was observed on fire by German aircraft.
- 3) U 453 (Schlippenbach) and U 431 (Dommes) each torpodoed a steamer.
- b) ./;

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 431 CO 6780, U 77 CO 9120, U 331 CO 9130, U 453 CO 6970, U 559 CP 7180, U 81 CP 7160, U 83 CP 8120.
 - b) U 205 put out from Salamis at 1600. U 561 put out from Pola at 1900.
- II. a) Southern part of straits south of Sardinia, west of Sardinia.
 - b) Malta area, Tobruk-Crete-Alexandria area,

III. a) ./.

- b) 0825 CP 7357 1 steamer, course 270°.
 0830 CP 7342 1 steamer, course 240°.
 1120 CP 7279 1 escort vessel, 3 steamers,
 course 230°.
 1045 CO 9126 2 destroyers, 1 escort vessel,
 1 tanker, 1 freighter, course
 280°.
 1054 CO 9111 2 small naval vessels, easterly
 course.
 1825 CP 7281 2 M.T.B.s, course 0°, speed
 30 knots.
 1825 CP 7282 6 escort vessels, 3 steamers,
 stopped.
 0615 CP 7284 5 steamers. 6 escort vessels,
 course 270°, speed 10 knots.
 0730 CO 8323 1 destroyer, 2 steamers,
 course 270°, speed 8 knots,
 several escort vessels off
 Tobruk and Alexandria in the
 forenoon.
- c) No time of origin: CO 6857 British aircraft reported: "Have attacked a U-boat with depth charges".
- d) Force H with a total of 32 units put out from Gibraltar between 0200 and 0500.
- e) Italian Navy:

1120 CN 9317 1 submarine, course 30°. 1850 CO 3437 1 submarine. 0430 CO 2569 1 submarine.

IV. U 453 (Schlippenbach) was ordered to go to Salamis for replenishing. The boats are no longer in contact, and were assigned the following attack areas:

U 77 (Schonder) as ordered.

U 81 (Guggenberger) between the meridians of CO 9135 and CO 9219.

U 431 (Dommes) between the meridians of

CO 9354 and CO 9365. U 559 (Heidtmann) adjoining it as far as the meridian of CP 7185.

Northern limit for all boats is a line 30 miles from and parallel to the coast.

U 83 (Kraus) reported a tanker of 8000 GRT and an escort vessel in CP 5957. In addition he reported a success. Only 80 rounds left.

U 81 (Guggenberger) subsequently reported two unsuccessful attacks on the convoy because of torpedo failures. He reported that it was quite impossible to maintain close contact with the convoy.

U 431 (Dommes) was attacked by aircraft, whilst operating on the convoy and forced to submerge. Slightly damaged by bombs. As "Kraus" must soon return, thus leaving unoccupied the operational area in the Eastern Mediterranean where successes may be obtained, Captain U-boats has made the following proposal to Flag Officer German Naval Command:

"In view of "Kraus"'s successes, obtained within so short a time, I suggest that another boat should operate in "Kraus"'s operational area." "Schonder" is suggested for the operation because he is fully supplied as well as being one of the most senior U-boat Commanders, so that he would provide the necessary drive for success. This proposal has been turned down by the Flag Officer because of the present situation in North Africa.

V. a) U 83 (Kraus) reported: "Sinkings to date - 2 steamers, 4000 GRT, cargo-carrying schooner of 400 GRT, steamer of 6000 GRT torpedoed, sinking not observed."

U 431 (Dommes) reported: "After the fan reported in CO 9255, the damaged steamer was sighted, probably sunk. While in pursuit only 4 more escort vessels were detected."

b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 83 CP 5970, U 559 CP 7170, U 431 CO 9360, U 81 CO 9210, U 77 CO 6780, U 453 CO 5380, U 331 CO 5220, U 205 CO 2910, U 561 CJ 3720.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia as far as Algiers, west of Sicily.
 - b) Same as on previous day.

III. a) ./.

- b) 0800 CO 2497 1 submarine, course 300°.
 1040 CO 5996 1 steamer, course 270°.
 1330 CP 7521 1 destroyer, southwesterly course.

 1630 CO 9395 5 steamers, course 270°.
 CO 9396 2 destroyers, course 270°.
 1705 CO 9868 1 steamer, course 90°.
 1715 CP 8184 2 cruisers?, southwesterly course, high speed.
 1715 CO 9348 convoy, course 275°, (1 cruiser, 9 escort vessels, 4 steamers).
 1845 CO 9228 convoy.
 0615 CP 7412 the same convoy, course 90°.
 0620 CO 9128 1 steamer, 2 escort vessels, northerly course.
 0630 CP 7513 2 fast motor minesweepers, 5 guardboats, course 90°.
 0645 CO 6798 3 small coasting vessels, course 270°.
- c) 0303 Alexandria transmitted: U-boat submerged in CO 9392. 0550 Alexandria transmitted: U-boat surfaced in CO 9132.
- d), e) ./.
- IV. At 1730 a convoy on a course of 2750 was sighted in CO 9342. "Schonder" and "Guggenberger" were ordered to operate on the convoy. The boats were notified by Command Post Derna that our E-boats will operate on this convoy and so they may appear west of 260 30' E. Flag Officer German Naval Command assumes that it is a Malta convoy ant that the course may be altered to the northwest during the hours of darkness. The boats must immediately report all information for the E-boats' use.
 - U 431 (Dommes) reported at 0039: "Contacted the convoy in CO 9316, southeasterly course, very large steamers". At 0226 the boat reported: "My position 9325, according to hydrophone bearing the convoy is in 9329, with aircraft". "Dommes" reported at 0253: "Suspect that the Malta convoy has turned about. Enemy speed over 12 knots. No contact in CO 9329". At 0403 U 431 reported: "Two torpedoes left after an unsuccessful fan to-night. No contact in CO 9361".
 - U 83 (Kraus) reported by short signal: "Am moving my operational area to the north from the attack area ordered". It is presumed that he wishes to use his last rounds on unescorted coasters; a course which is approved.

U 559 (Heidtmann) was ordered to report whether the boat requires a long refit as, if not, it is intended to send him to Salamis for replenishing and for a short rest.
"Heidtmann" reported: "Starboard motor needs changing, forward periscope shaft required - ready in Pola - six torpedoes, request permission to return". The boat received orders to start return passage to Pola, while remaining south of 32° N as far as the meridian of Sidi Barrani so as to be able to continue operating against the traffic.

- V. a) U 77 (Schonder) has sunk a "Hunt" class destroyer in CO 9131.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 83 CP 5950,
 U 559 CO 9330,
 U 431 CO 9350,
 U 77 CO 6780,
 U 331 CO 1110,
 U 453 CO 2370,
 U 81 CO 9210,
 U 205 CO 6440,
 U 561 CK 4490.
 - b) U 331 put in to Messina at 1605.
- II. a) Same as on previous day.
 - b) Same as on previous day.
- III. a) U 559: 0100 CO 9226 convoy, northwesterly course.

 U 559: 0130 CO 9223 convoy, course 2800, high speed.

 U 81: 0100 CO 9253 convoy on hydrophone bearing.

 U ?: 0155 CO 9222 2 escort vessels, course 3000, speed 16 knots.

 U 559: 0250 CO 6778 convoy, course 3000, speed 16 knots.

 U 205: 0533 CO 6793 new convoy, westerly course.
 - b) 0545 CO 6798 8 cruisers, 1 dummy, 9 destroyers, 24 guardboats, 8 freighters, 1 tanker, course 280°.

0550 CO 6791 convoy. 0640 CO 6791 convoy, course 270°. 0705 CO 6758 convoy, course 270°. 0720 CO 6757 convoy. 0800 CO 5923 2 escort vessels, 1 steamer, course 900. 0900 CH 9317 l battleship, 2 aircraft carriers, 5 cruisers, 20 destroyers, 6 steamers, easterly course. Contact was maintained continuously until 0142, course 1900, speed 12 knots. 1145 CO 5923 3 escort vessels, 1 steamer, making for Tobruk. 1145 CO 6777 2 escort vessels, 1 steamer, westerly course. 1226 CO 9371 4 escort vessels, 1 steamer, westerly course. 1223 CP 7276 1 cruiser, 32 other units, course 285°, high speed. 1225 CP 7274 convoy of 10 units, making for Alexandria. 2000 the large westbound convoy in CO 9391, at 2100 in CO 9318. 0130 CO 9223, 0300 CO 9139. 0550 CJ 7418 1 battleship, 2 aircraft carriers, 4 cruisers, ? destroyers, 6 steamers, course 90°. 0730 CH 9326 l destroyer, l cruiser, l steamer, course 270°.

- c) 0512 CO 6882 aircraft reported to Alexandria: "One surfaced U-boat".
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy;

1345 CK 9755 l submarine. 1940 CO 3431 l submarine, course 315°. 0415 CK 7211 l submarine.

IV. U 431 (Dommes) has successfully attacked an armed sailing vessel flying the British man-of-war ensign in CO 9355. Presumably a submarine decoy.

At 1315 in CO 5682 a Ju 88 attacked a submarine. Admiral Aegean suspects that one of our own boats has been attacked.

U 205 (Reschke) and U 559 (Heidtmann), who may be in the neighborhood of the grid square mentioned, were ordered to report their positions. Both signals were received.

U 205 (Reschke) was ordered to occupy the area between the meridians of CO 9365 and CP 7185 as his attack area. A powerful convoy on a westerly course in CP 7412 was spotted at 1720 by air reconnaissance. All boats were set on to it. U 559 (Heidtmann), U 81 (Guggenberger) and U 205 (Reschke) contacted this convoy. "Reschke" attacked and heard one hit.

At 0533 "Reschke" reported: "New convoy on hydrophone bearing in 6793, easterly course. Forced to submerge because of aircraft".

U 431 (Dommes) reported that he has fired all his torpedoes and requested permission to return to Spezia. The boat received orders to return.

"Kraus" has started return passage to Spezia.

V. a) U 83 (Kraus) has sunk a ship of 500 GRT, carrying a cargo of ammunition, at entrance to Tripoli harbor,

"Kraus" has now destroyed 20 enemy vessels.

U 205 (Reschke) fired a fan against a convoy. He reported that he heard one hit.

b) ./.

Note: The following report was received from the Italian Navy: "An agent reported that, because of recent sinkings in the Eastern Mediterranean, auxiliary sailing vessels carrying fuel between Tripoli and Cyprus are now believed to be escorted by patrol vessels."

(Signed) Kreisch.

14 June 1942

- I. a) U 83 CP 5140,
 U 431 CO 6940,
 U 205 CO 6840,
 U 81 CO 9210,
 U 559 CO 6730,
 U 453 CK 8960,
 U 77 CO 6780,
 U 561 CK 7540,
 U 331 CJ 5970.
 - b) U 453 put in to Salamis at 0815.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Malta area, Crete-Tobruk-Alexandria area,

III. a) ./.

b) 1130 CO 5391 2 cruisers, 15 destroyers, 3-4 steamers up to 10,000 tons, 27 steamers 1,000-3,000 tons, 10 escort vessels, course 300°, formation at 1345, course 360°.

1701 formation in CO 5621.

1820 C0 5371. 2012 C0 5258 course 270°. 2240 C0 5163 convoy, course 270°. 0810 CJ 7425 Force H, contact was maintained continuously.

2100 Force H has started to return.

0400 Alexandria convoy has started to return. Strength still 40 units, including 8 cruisers. Proceeding in 2 groups.

c), d) ./.

e) Italian Navy:

0915 CK 7379 1 submarine. 1730 CJ 7365 1 submarine.

German Navy:

2124 CO 5257 large convoy, course 260°, speed 14 knots.

0131 CO 5159 large convoy, course 0°.
0251 CO 5152 l cruiser, 5 destroyers,
course 100°, speed 15 knots.

U 77 (Schonder) reported that, having sustained IV. a heavy depth charge attack, he is only clear with restrictions and requested permission to return to Salamis. Boat received orders to proceed to Salamis.

> Italian naval forces were set on to the convoy spotted yesterday and presumably bound for Malta. The boats already homeward bound (U 559 (Heidtmann) and U 431 (Dommes)) were ordered not to cross 22° E to the west and to avoid Italian naval forces which have sailed to attack the convoy.

At 2325 the boats received the following order:

To all boats.

- 1) Large convoy, 2 cruisers, 15 destroyers, 30 steamers, 10 escort vessels at 1700 was in CO 5610 and 5370, course 3000, moderate speed. The convoy has been attacked repeatedly by German Air Force. 2 steamers, 1 destroyer, 1 cruiser unable to maneuver in CO 5379.
- 2) All boats will operate on the damaged ships of the convoy in CO 5379 until they have used up their torpedoes. Boats must not pass west of the meridian in 5166. All boats, except for "Dommes" and "Kraus", will report their positions by short signal.

According to a teleprint message from Naval War Staff, there is a danger that a landing on

Crete may be attempted by this convoy. Admiral Aegean asked how many boats east of 20° E could operate on this convoy. He was informed that there are 3 boats available. Our E-boats will operate on the convoy. The U-boats have been notified.

After dark "Heidtmann" re-transmitted the radio message he had already sent in the forenoon at 0620 but which was not received in Rome or Salamis.

He reported that there are 8 cruisers and more than 12 escort vessels with the convoy and that the illumination of the convoy by aircraft in the night of 13/14 June handicapped every U-boat attack.

The position reports requested of the boats were received.

At 0437 "Dommes" reported: "A large patch of oil, some wreckage in CO 5379, am searching further east".

U 77 (Schonder) reported at 0604: "Searched CO 5370 and 5610, 5379 full of heavy Diesel oil - am searching further to the southeast".

U 431 (Dommes) reported at 0658: "Drifting motor landing barge in 5613".

V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

15 June 1942

- I. a) U 205 CP 7170, U 83 CP 6370, U 81 CO 9210, U 77 CO 5620, U 431 CO 6940, U 559 CO 5210, U 561 CO 2710, U 331 CJ 1930.
 - b) U 331 put in to Spezia at 1700.
 U 372 and U 97 put out from Spezia at 1730.
 U 97 put in to Spezia at 0050.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia, westwards as far as radius of action allowed.
 - b) Straits south of Sardinia, Ionian Sea, Malta area, Cyrenaica-Crete area.

- III. a) U 81: 0600 CO 6942 convoy, course 140°, speed 12 knots.
 - b) 1350 CO 5355 northern group of Alexandria convoy, course 90°, at 0615 southern group CO 5622.

1700 CO 6414 southern group, mean course eastsoutheast.

1945 CO 6415 Alexandria convoy (1 dummy battleship), 7 cruisers, including one on fire, 8 destroyers, one on fire, also 16 escort vessels, 3 patrol vessels, 1 tanker, 5 freighters, course 90°.

1710 CN 2929 convoy of 19 units, 13 freighters, 16 naval craft, course 90°.

2000 CN 3488 convoy. 0545 CO 6834 8 cruisers, 6 merchant ships, 17 destroyers and escort vessels.

0655 CP 7284 1 steamer with escort vessels, course 1500.

c) 0950 CO 5564 from British aircraft: "2 surfaced U-boats, course 1100, speed 10 knots".

1850 CO 5965 from British aircraft: "2 surfaced U-boats".

0442 CO 9219 from British aircraft: "1 surfaced U-boat, course 1100,

speed 6 knots. 0600 CO 5377 from British aircraft: "l surfaced U-boat".

- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

1520 CN 2678 6 cruisers, 12 destroyers, 2 steamers, course 700, speed 15 knots.

German E-boats:

0325 CO 6573 Alexandria convoy.

The homeward-bound boats and U 81 (Guggenberger) IV. and U 205 (Reschke) are remaining east of 22° E because of the operations now being carried out by Italian naval forces. No shadowers' reports have been received from the boats. Air reconnaissance at 0415 contacted a convoy (20 ships) in CO 5248, course 80-1000 and at 0437 in CO 5222 15 ships, course 100°.

> "Reschke" and "Guggenberger", the only boats in full operational readiness, have been allotted CO 5610 and 5370 as attack areas to intercept the convoy which is probably on a reciprocal

course. If the convoy continues on an easterly course, it is doubtful whether the boats will reach their positions in time. Several rubber dinghies (German aircraft crash landings in the sea) were spotted by our air reconnaissance in the area east of 220 E. The boats were directed to look out for them and to take the crew on board. Up to the present it has not been possible to obtain a clear picture of the convoy's behavior from aircraft shadowers! reports. At 1600 "Kraus" made contact in CO 5623. The enemy is proceeding at a moderate speed on an easterly course. At 1555 "Heidtmann" reported: "The convoy at 1430 was in CO 5622 on a southeasterly course. At 1550 what was presumed to be a torpedo hit was seen (probably caused by a torpedo or a bomb, dropped by air-craft), vessel sank. At 1700 "Kraus" reported the convoy in CO 5634 on a southeasterly course. He was lying astern of the convoy. At 1900 "Kraus" reported that he had lost contact. The convoy at 1830 was in 6410, course 120° , according to hydrophone bearing. In order to make sure of intercepting a possible alteration of course to the west by the convoy, in another effort to win through, it is intended to have the convoy illuminated by flares dropped by aircraft until 2300. The boats have been notified of this plan.

At 2020 "Guggenberger" was in CO 6447 and saw anti-aircraft fire bearing 600 true.

On account of the operations by Italian naval forces scheduled for 16 June, the boats were withdrawn as far as 23° 30' E and confined to the east of this longitude.

At 2320 in CO 6572 "Reschke" contacted the convoy, steering a course of 80°. At 0138 a report of a success was received from "Reschke". The bringing-up of "Guggenberger" and "Reschke" was after all a successful move.

"Kraus" in CO 5688 has rescued 7 airmen forced down into the sea, "Dommes" has rescued the crew of a Do 24 and of a Ju 88.

"Reschke" reported that he had been forced back and that the convoy was steering a course of 80°.

"Kraus" has engine trouble and one Diesel clear for a short time only.

At 0438 "Guggenberger" contacted the convoy in CO 6836, at 0600 he reported it in CO 6942 on a course of 1400.

The Italian Navy issued the following information that no Italian naval forces would be operating on 16 June and that the homeward-bound boats might proceed accordingly. "Schonder" was ordered to proceed to Salamis, "Dommes" and "Kraus" to Spezia and "Heidtmann" to Pola, as there was no point in allowing these boats to continue operating as they either had no torpedoes left ("Dommes" and "Kraus") or were damaged. It has proved worth-while to have had them on shadowing and air/sea rescue operations.

U 97 (Burgel) is returning to Spezia because one of the crew has broken his arm and because oil supplies must be renewed as a result of heavy rolling in ground swells.

V. a) U 431 (Dommes) at 0844 reported sinking a motor barge. (The cargo was an M.T.B. engine in packing cases). U 205 (Reschke) has sunk one of the convoy's cruisers with three torpedoes.

According to a report received by the Italian Navy from an agent, the British tanker "Eocene" (4216) was torpedoed in the Eastern Mediterranean on the night of 20/21 May. This is probably the tanker that "Dommes" hit with two torpedoes on 20 May at 2019. (See War Diary of 20 May under V.a)

b) ./.

Comments

of

the Deputy Flag Officer German Naval Command Italy on the War Diary of Captain U-boats for the period from 1 to 30 June, 1942.

- 1. During the month of June the number of boats on operations was relatively high, and the facilities for speedy replenishing of torpedoes in Salamis proved advantageous.
- 2. The resultant sinkings achieved are satisfactory.

The following were sunk or torpedoed:

1 "Hunt" class destroyer sunk. By U 77 By U 81 1 tanker of 6,000 G.R.T. sunk. 1 freighter of 3,000 G.R.T. sunk. By U 97 1 tanker of 2,000 G.R.T. sunk. 3 freighters of 4,600 G.R.T. sunk. By U 83 2 sailing ships of 400 G.R.T. sunk. 1 tanker of 6,000 G.R.T. torpedoed. 1 "Glasgow" class cruiser sunk. By U 205 1 freighter torpedoed. By U 431 1 freighter sunk, 1 motor ferry barge of 100 G.R.T. sunk. 2 freighters torpedoed. 1 tanker of 6,000 G.R.T. sunk. By U 559 1 freighter of 4,000 G.R.T. torpedoed. l freighter torpedoed, probable sinking By U 453 noises. 1 freighter torpedoed.

- 3. No remarks on the disposition of the boats. It corresponded to instructions and to the situation.
- 4. The suggestions for the minelaying operation off Port Said are approved.
- on 10 June and on the Malta convoy on 14/15 June deserve recognition. Of the six boats, which were set on the Malta convoy, two were in a state of only limited operational readiness, as a result of previous damage; two had no more torpedoes, and only two boats were fully ready for action. Apart from the success one cruiser was sunk the reliable shadowers' reports and the rescue of 4 aircraft crews merit special attention.
- 6. U 652 has been lost as a result of bombing. In the prevailing circumstances it was not possible to bring the boat in. Thus the rescue of the crew by U 81 and the sinking of U 652 were justified.

As the Commander of U 652 reported verbally to Captain U-boats, an attempt was made to have the boat towed in by U 81. The threat from enemy aircraft however compelled the attempt to be abandoned.

WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

16 - 30 JUNE, 1942

PG/30925

- I. a) U 81 CO 6830,
 U 205 CO 6490,
 U 431 CO 5360,
 U 561 CO 5360,
 U 83 CO 5370,
 U 559 CO 5260,
 U 77 CO 2980,
 U 372 CJ 5490,
 U 97 CJ 1390.
 - b) U 97: put in to Spezia at 1000.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, area from Malta to the southern point of Greece, Tobruk -Crete - Alexandria area.
- III. a) U 431: 0805 CO 6471 3 M.T.B.s, southwesterly course.

 U 81: 1215 CO 6997 6 escort vessels, course 102°, speed 15 knots.
 - b) 0840 Off Port Said 9 steamers at anchor.

 0910 CO 8332 1 merchant ship on fire.

 1242 CN 2492 1 steamer, 1 warship, course 180°.

 1435 CP 7119 Alexandria convoy, course 100°,

 apart from it in CP 7114 6 escort

 vessels, course 100°.

 1805 CO 1468 1 submarine.

 1820 CP 7178 1 steamer, course 270°, speed

 10 knots.

 1830 CP 7279 latest shadower's report on

 Alexandria convoy.

 0632 CJ 8749 1 cruiser, 4 destroyers,

 course 300°, speed 14 knots.

 0632 CJ 7855 1 cruiser, course 270°,

 speed 22 knots.
 - c) 1136 CO 6894 British aircraft transmitted;

 "All over enemy U-boat".

 1215 CO 6985 British aircraft transmitted;

 "Am over enemy U-boat".

 1500 CO 9393 British aircraft transmitted;

 "Surfaced U-boat".
 - d) ./.
 - e) Italian Navy:
 - 1145 CH 8231 1 cruiser, 2 destroyers, course 0°, speed 20 knots.
- IV. The German Air Force maintained contact until dusk with the convoy which has returned to Alexandria: the reconnaissance aircraft

abandoned shadowing once the convoy was on the inward route. Of the U-boats, U 81 (Guggenberger) made contact. At 1215 he reported 6 escort vessels in CO 6997, course 1020, speed 15 knots. According to an air reconnaissance report, these escort vessels were separate from the convoy.

U 431 (Dommes) reported 3 escort vessels on a southwesterly course in CO 6471 at 0805. Probably they are some of our own boats returning from the operation. At 2017, after the convoy was discovered by the German Air Force on the inward route to Alexandria and no shadowers' reports were received from the boats, they received the following orders: Guggenberger and Reschke: - operate on the returning convoy. Do not proceed further east than the meridian of CP 2155. If no contact is made, occupy attack areas. Reschke between the meridians of CO 6784 and CO 9135. Guggenberger east of there as far as the meridian of CO 9215. Northern limit is line 30 miles from and parallel to the coast.

V. a) ./.

b) U 74 (Friedrich) is reported missing for the first time. Boat put out from Spezia on 23 April and last reported on 2 May. Date of loss is not known, it is between 2 and 21 May. Fate of the crew completely uncertain.

U 652 is reported missing for the second time with effect from 2 June 1942. Boat was so badly damaged by bombs that it had to be sunk in CO 6758. All the crew was saved and taken on by U 81.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 81 CO 9360, U 205 CO 9320, U 561 CP 4190, U 77 CK 8940, U 431 CO 1680, U 83 CO 1530, U 559 CO 1340, U 372 CJ 9540, U 97 CJ 5170.
 - b) U 372 put in to Messina at 1255. U 77 put in to Salamis at 0815.

- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia, Algerian coast as far as Algiers.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta area, Crete . Tobruk - Alexandria area.

III. a) ./.

- b) 0820 CP 7276 2 destroyers, 3 steamers, 1 tanker, course 330°. 0845 CP 7282 1 warship, course 1500, speed 8 knots. 1025 CP 7261 2 destroyers, 2 steamers, course 225°. 0940 CO 9125 6 guardboats, 8 steamers, course 1500. 1207 CO 9162 6 guardboats, 8 steamers, course 900. 1700 CH 9636 1 cruiser, 4 destroyers, at 1800 in CH 9295, course 270° . 1720 CH 9654 1 tanker, course 60°. 1955 CH 9297 3 cruisers, course 270°. 0715 CP 7267 2 destroyers, 4 steamers, course 2400.
- c) ./.
- d) 1000 the "Malaya", the "Eagle", the "Argus": 1600 one cruiser in tow put in to Gibraltar. 1630 the "Southampton" listing, put in to port.
- e) Italian Navy:

0830 CJ 3996 l submarine. 1000 CJ 3949 l submarine. 1950 CH 9531 2 destroyers, l unidentified unit, course 270°.

- IV. Proceeding from east to west, U 205 (Reschke) at 1954 in CO 9256 contacted the convoy from Tobruk, which was intercepted by our air reconnaissance during the day. He did not manage to attack. The boat lost contact at 2102. After a miss in CO 9264 on one of the destroyers following the convoy, the boat had used up all its torpedoes. After the attack it was forced to submerge by aircraft. Boat was ordered to go to Spezia.
- V. a) According to a radio intercept report from the Italian Navy the Norwegian steamer "Toulouse" (7027 G.R.T.) was sunk off Port Said. It is supposed that the ship hit a mine laid by U 561 (Bartels).
 - b) ./.
- VI. 1600 Captain U-boats took off for Taormina and Messina for passage in U 83 from Messina to Spezia.

(Signed) Kreisch.

-258-

- I. a) U 561 CP 4190, U 205 CO 6870, U 81 CO 9210, U 559 CO 1380, U 372 CJ 9890, U 97 CJ 9820, U 83 CJ 9820, U 431 CJ 9820.
 - b) U 453 put out from Salamis at 1750.

 U 83
 U 431) put out from Messina at 1825.

 U 372 put out from Messina at 0500.

 U 83) put in to Messina at 0720.

 U 97 put in to Messina at 0835, put out to sea at 2010.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta area, Tobruk Alexandria Crete area.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 0910 CO 9394 6 patrol vessels.
 0940 CO 9394 8 small naval vessels, 6 steamers,
 course 90°.
 0720 CP 8159 1 warship, 2 steamers, 1 tanker,
 course 0°.
 0735 CP 7287 convoy of 6 steamers, course set
 for Alexandria.
 0740 CP 7282 2 cruisers, 4 destroyers, 10 steamers,
 1 tanker, course 270°.
 - c) 0500 CO 1824 l British submarine located by direction finding.
 - d) The following put in to Gibraltar: 1 minelaying cruiser, after-deck awash, at 1600: 1 "Fiji" class cruiser at 1700: 1 "Dido" class cruiser at 1730: 1 "Cairo" class cruiser and 2 destroyers at 2030.
 - e) •/•
- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) We must presume U 568 (Lt. S.G. Preuss) lost.
 The boat put out from Spezia on operations on
 21 May, put in to Messina on 23 May and put out
 from there under escort on 24 May. In spite of
 several requests, the boat did not report. Apart
 from the report of sailing from Messina, no reports
 have been received. There are no clues which might
 indicate the cause of the boat's loss.

VI. Captain U-boats put out from Messina (in U 83) at 1830 for Spezia.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 81 CO 9210,
 U 561 CP 4190,
 U 453 CO 2640,
 U 205 CO 5250,
 U 372 CO 1910,
 U 97 CO 1180,
 U 559 CO 7220,
 U 83 CJ 8320,
 U 431 CJ 8320.
 - b) U 83 and U 431 put in to Spezia at 0700.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicily Crete area, Malta area, from Tobruk Crete Alexandria area.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 0510 CO 5982 3 destroyers, CO 5985, 3 escort vessels, 1 steamer, making for Tobruk.

 0630 CP 7285 1 steamer, course 300°.
 - c) 0525 CP 8123 British aircraft reported one U-boat.
 0617 CP 5789 British aircraft reported submerging U-boat.
 - d) 2300 3 destroyers, 1 steamer, put out from Gibraltar. Course indefinite.
- IV. From 0800 no Italian U-boats will be operating in the Alexandria - Tobruk area. U 81 (Guggenberger) was ordered to the attack area between the meridians of CO 6784 and CO 9354: northern limit is line 30 miles from and parallel to the coast. At 0740 in CP 7282 10 steamers, l tanker, 2 cruisers, 4 destroyers, course 270^ó were sighted by the Italian Air Force. It is possible that they are trying to take this convoy to Malta. It has been proposed to Flag Officer German Naval Command to set the outward bound boats (U 97 Bürgel, U 372 Neumann, and U 453 Schlippenbach) west of 22° 30' E (probable night's run of the convoy). As few clues exist to indicate that the convoy is bound for Malta, but as there are indications that Tobruk will be evacuated, Flag Officer German Naval Command Italy has directed that the boats be sent as quickly as possible to

east of Sollum Bay. The following attack areas are occupied by the boats: - Area between the meridians of CO 9217 and 9357 in the following order: - Bürgel, Neumann, Schlippenbach in north - south patrol lanes of equal width: Northern limit is a line 30 miles from and parallel to the coast.

Neumann reported that he was pursuing a "submarine" in CO 27 and asked Reschke for a position report. U 205 (Reschke) reported a "submarine" in CO 2756. Probably U 372 (Neumann) has been pursuing U 205

(Reschke).

U 81 (Guggenberger) reported at 1925, "Unsuccessful attack on convoy in CP 7426. Another torpedo failure because of tube deformation. Unfit to operate as a result of damage and defects. Commenced return passage. I electric torpedo, 30 cbm". From the radio message it is not evident when and on what course the convoy was sighted. It may be the convoy which was sighted by the Italian Air Force at 0740. U 81 (Guggenberger) was asked when and on what course the convoy was sighted. The Commander of U 83, Lt.(S.G.) Kraus, was awarded the Knight's Cross by the Fuehrer.

- v. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 561 CP 8100, U 453 CO 6720, U 81 CO 5660, U 372 CO 5660, U 205 CO 1640, U 97 CO 5130, U 559 CK 4420.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta area, Tobruk Alexandria Haifa Crete area.
- III. a) U 453: 0430 CO 6789 M.T.B. 1 "Q"-ship, course 90°.
 - b) 0920 l steamer putting in to Tobruk, l steamer putting out to sea.

 1115 CP 7282 4 guardboats, course 150°.
 2320 CO 6772 several units, course 150°.
 0612 CO 9134 3 escort vessels, 2 steamers, easterly course.

0645 CO 9135 1 escort vessel, 1 steamer, easterly course.
0646 CO 6786 2 escort vessels, 1 steamer, easterly course.
0650 CO 6725 2 steamers, easterly course.
0640 CO 2255 3 small naval vessels, easterly course.

- c) ./.
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

2350 CK 7214 l submarine. 0300 CJ 9715 l submarine.

- IV. The town and harbor of Tobruk are in German hands.
 U 453 (Schlippenbach) at 0420 sighted M.T.B.s and one "Q"-ship in CO 6789, easterly course. Otherwise nothing to report.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.
- VI. Captain U-boats in Spezia.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 561 CP 4190, U 372 CO 9360, U 97 CO 9230, U 453 CO 9210, U 81 CO 1590, U 205 CJ 9820, U 559 CK 3760.
 - b) U 559 put in to Pola at 0650.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta area, Tobruk Crete Cyprus Alexandria area.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 0855 CP 7283 l steamer, course 60°, 8 steamers off Alexandria, easterly course.
 0858 CP 7291 l destroyer, 1 steamer, course 90°.
 0900 CP 7293 l gunboat, 3 steamers, course 90°.

0731 CO 9261 1 escort vessel, easterly course. 0741 CO 9392 1 escort vessel, westerly course.

- c) Ollo CO 9311 British aircraft transmitted: "Am over enemy submarine".
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

CK 7929 1 submarine.

- V. a) ./.
 - b) Italian Navy passed on an agent's report of l June 1942.
 Uncontrolled reports say that there are in the (Gibraltar) prisons and Europa Point 26 German prisoners of war, who belong to the crew of a U-boat sunk in the Mediterranean. Four more are slightly wounded and are quartered in the hospital. See War Diary of 8 June 1942 under V.b).

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 372 CO 9340, U 97 CO 9230, U 453 CO 9210, U 561 CO 6510, U 81 CJ 9820, U 559 CJ 3170, U 205 CJ 8310.
 - b) U 562 put out from Pola at 1845.
 U 81 put in to Messina at 0800, put out to sea at 1810.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia as far as Algiers.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta Benghazi area, Sollum Crete Alexandria area.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 0905 CO 7413 2 guardboats. 0930 CO 6778 1 steamer, course 90°. 1025 CO 9388 1 steamer, course 90°. 1050 CO 9268 and CO 9256 one M.T.B. in each.

- c) :/.
- d) ./.
- e) Italian Navy:

1715 CN 6897 1 submarine. 0035 CN 9327 1 submarine. 0135 CJ 8843 1 submarine.

- IV. U 561 (Bartels) was ordered to go to Augusta via Messina, there to reload for the next special operation. In radio messages Series Nos. 22/529 and 22/530 the extension of the area where anti-submarine measures are allowed (Zone D) off the North African coast - was passed on to the boats at sea. U 453 (Schlippenbach) sent a short situation report without being requested to do so.
 He reported: "Patrol by M.T.B.s and fast' motor minesweepers, moderate air activity. No traffic in CO 9139". U 561 (Bartels) asked for entrancepoint "East" and Point S one. Points were transmitted by radio. In view of the situation on the North African front we no longer expect enemy traffic west of the Mersa Matruh meridian. The previous operational area of the U-boats has been moved 60 miles to the east. boats will now operate between the meridians of CO 9344 to CP 7184.
- v. a) ./.
 - b) ./.
- VI. Captain U-boats back from Spezia.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 372 CP 7170, U 97 CO 9390, U 453 CO 9340, U 561 CO 2750, U 81 CJ 8390, U 562 CJ 3840, U 205 CJ 1390.
 - b) U 205 put in to Spezia at 0845.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia as far as Algiers.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta area, Alexandria Crete Sollum area.

III. a) ./.

- c) 1845 CO 9245 unknown British station reported 2 surfaced U-boats.
- d) ./.
- e) :/.
- IV. The following proposal was made to Flag Officer German Naval Command Italy by Captain U-boats.
 - 1. I propose that two boats be left off Mersa Matruh and east of it because of the indefinite and probably slight traffic in the operational area and because of the unfavorable phase of the moon. Remainder of the boats will operate off the Syrian coast.
 - 2. According to Kraus' observations a large tanker puts out from Haifa every second day, also valuable traffic at other times, hardly any defenses.
 - J. Independently of the basic decision on 1), I consider it advisable for (U 97) Burgel to operate only off the Syrian coast, as the Commander, both watchkeeping officers and the Chief Quartermaster, 2nd Class are new and the assignment on the African coast on moonlight nights is quite difficult enough. He will depart this evening, unless there is a counter order.
 - 4. Request speedy return of Lt. Cdr. Oehrn.

Reply from Flag Officer was as follows:

With reference radio message on the subject of U-boat operations.

As fighting has not yet ceased in North Africa and new operations commence tomorrow it is essential for all suitable boats to operate in the Mersa Matruh - Alexandria area.

- 2. I concur on the subject of Burgel under the special circumstances.
- 3. Our E-boats will operate as far as 26° 30' E without previous notification.
- Lt. Cdr. Oehrn will return in the next 4. few days. U 97 (Burgel) was directed to the area south of the parallel in CP 5588 and east of the meridian in CP 4954, as his new attack area. According to the observations of the boats which were engaged on a special operation there and according to the operations of U 83 this operational area appears to be rewarding, and promises success. When U 97 has been withdrawn from his present operational area the eastern limit for Schlippenbach (and the western limit for Neumann) will be the meridian of CO 9364. Operations H.Q. Derna is no longer tuned in to the U-boat wave.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 97 CP 4950, U 372 CP 7170, U 453 CO 9340, U 77 CO 5390, U 561 CO 1640, U 562 CK 4410, U 81 CJ 1660.
 - b) U 81 put in to Spezia at 1245.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia.
 - b) Malta area, Sidi Barrani Alexandria Crete area.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 1005 CP 7274 2 destroyers, 5 escort vessels, l guardboat, 2 M.T.B.s, l submarine, 3 barges. 0720 CO 9384 1 M.T.B., 3 steamers, course 270°. 0730 CP 7432 2 escort vessels, 4 steamers, course 90°.

- c) 2330 CO 4973 l submarine by radio location.
- d) The "Malaya" put out from Gibraltar.
- e) Italian Navy:

1100 CO 7341 1 submarine.

- IV. U 77 (Schonder) has occupied the area between the meridians of CO 9355 and CO 9369. Northern limit a line 30 miles from and parallel to the coast.

 Nothing to report.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

25 June, 1942

- I. a) U 97 CP 5760, U 372 CP 7170, U 453 CO 9340, U 77 CO 9360, U 562 CK 7220, U 561 CJ 9820.
 - b) U 561 put in to Messina at 0820.
- II. a) Coast from Philippeville to Tunis.
 - b) ./.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) In Mersa Matruh l escort vessel, 6 barges. 1705 CO 9384 l escort vessel, l damaged merchant ship, course 90°, speed 6 knots. 1720 CP 7421 l escort vessel, course 270°.
 - c), d), e) ./.
- IV. Nothing to report.
- V. a), b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 97 CP 5760, U 372 CP 7170, U 77 CO 9360, U 453 CO 9340, U 562 CO 7850.
 - b) ./.

- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia as far as Algiers.
 - b) Sicilian Channel.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) Mersa Matruh: in the harbor: l escort vessel, 5 barges, several small vessels.

0937 CP 7288 1 destroyer, 1 steamer, course 750.

- c) ./.
- d) ./.
- o) Italian Navy:

CJ 9738 1 submarine.

- IV. Traffic was so slight in the present operational area of the boats (escort vessels and M.T.B.s), that the disposition of the boats promised no satisfaction. Therefore Captain U-boats sent the following radio message to Flag Officer German Naval Command:
 - 1. From 29 June Hamm will be in the operational area.
 - 2. Otherwise no alterations.
 - 3. Up to now very slight traffic off the African coast, mainly escort vessels, probably the result of the lack of clarity as to the situation for the British. According to reliable agents! reports received by C-in-C (South) however, increased supply traffic from the Syrian coast to Alexandria, perhaps also troopships. Also in view of the bright moonlight nights very poor degree of efficiency from stronger U-boat operations off the African coast.
 - 4. I therefore propose in agreement with Chief of Staff to concentrate U-boat operations at first off the Syrian coast, with Schonder operating at once for the special reason that he has formerly been very successful with 11 operations as Commander. He must be particularly lucky.
 - 5. Request speedy decision on 4) as, in the opinion of C-in-C (South), prospects are particularly favorable at present. Request that you submit a claim for increased air reconnaissance directly to C-in-C (South).

The following radio message was received in reply from Flag Officer German Naval Command: Set all U-boats to attack troops and supply transports from Syria, Palestine, Port Said to Alexandria.

Attacks must be carried out right up to the coastal route through shallow water.

Burgel reported: In a submerged night attack on a steamer with two escorts, heard on hydrophones and forced back. Both listening sets out of order.

- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

27 June, 1942

- I. a) U 97 CP 5760, U 372 CP 7170, U 77 CO 9360, U 453 CO 9340, U 562 CO 5210.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia westward as far as 2° E.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta area, Mersa Matruh area, Crete, Alexandria.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) In Mersa Matruh: 2 small warships, 3 barges, several small vessels. 0810 CO 9346 1 escort vessel, easterly course. 0815 CO 7127 l escort vessel, CP 7178, 1 destroyer, course 900. 0820 CP 7175 4 escort vessels, 1 M.T.B., l steamer, course 90°. 0820 CP 7251 2 escort vessels, 5 steamers, course 90°. 0825 off Alexandria 6 - 8 escort vessels, 1 merchant ship, course 3000. 0830 CP 7433 2 escort vessels, 4 steamers, course 90°. 0830 CO 9384 2 escort vessels, 1 barge, course 90°. 0900 CO 9342 1 torpedoboat, course 90°. 0650 CP 7143 1 destroyer (?), course 90°. 0710 CP 7276 2 escort vessels, 1 steamer, course 300°. 0715 CP 7267 2 patrol vessels, 1 steamer, course 270°. 0705 CP 7265 1 escort vessel, 1 tanker,

course 240°.

- c) By radio direction finding, at 1027 CP 7415 British auxiliary cruisor.
 - 1602 CP 7217 British aircraft reported surfaced U-boat.
- d) Agent reported: 0930 CH 7297, 13 steamers, course 90°.
- 0) ./.
- IV. Boats received the following orders:
 - 1. Boats are set on the troop and supply transports from Syria, Palestine, Port Said to Alexandria.
 - 2. Occupy the following attack areas:
 Neumann and Schlippenbach south of the parallol in 4988, Neumann between the moridians of 7255 and 7354, Schlippenbach to the east as far as the meridian of 8145. Considerable traffic observed from 7263 to 7363. Concentrate on this line. Burgel east of the meridian of 8241, south of the parallel 5898. Limited by the coast in east and south. Traffic observed from 8218 to 8313. More traffic is highly probable within the 200 meter line. Schonder north of Burgel as far as the parallel of 5588. Tanker traffic observed on the 200 meter line.
 - 3. Expect traffic directly under the coast and operate on it even here.
 - 4. All squares ER.
 - For own minefields see series number 23/543; 5. so far only enemy minefields known are those directly off the harbors. In this disposition the boats are equally distributed on the Haifa - Alexandria route: the area off Port Said romains unoccupied, so that the ensuing minelaying operation in this area is not made too difficult for U 561 by any U-boat activity. U 453 (Schlippenbach) reported by short signal: No traffic in CO 9357. U 562 (Hamm) was ordered to proceed to CP 5525. He reported his position from CO 6414 at 1806. U 97 (Bürgel) requested position of Italian minefields in CP 8322.
- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

28 June, 1942

- I. a) U 97 CP 8250, U 77 CP 5780, U 453 CP 7330, U 372 CP 7260, U 562 CO 6620.
 - b) ./.
- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia as far as Algiers.
 - b) Sicîlian Channel, Malta area, Crete Sollum area, Alexandria, Haifá Cyprus.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 0808 CP 7352 2 steamers, course 90°.
 1430 CN 3494 4 steamers, of which 2 were harbor
 vessels, making for Mersa Sirocco.
 0345 4 units put out from Alexandria.
 0710 CP 5395 3 escort vessels, courses varying.
 - c) Beirut reported: 1330 in CP 5953 a surfaced U-boat.
 - d) ./.
 - e) Italian Navy:

1750 CJ 1634'l submarine.

- IV. U 562 (Hamm) was assigned to the operational area east of the meridian of CP 5544 as far as the coast, between the parallels of CP 2985 and CP 5678.

 U 97 (Bürgel) has made a successful attack southwest of Haifa and reported busy south north traffic on the 100 meter line.
- V. a) U 97 (Burgel) sank a steamer of 3000 G.R.T. and a tanker of 2000 G.R.T. in CP 5953 at 1300.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

- I. a) U 562 CP 5450, U 77 CP 5860, U 97 CP 8250, U 453 CP 7530, U 372 CP 7340.
 - b) U 375 put out from Spezia at 1815.

- II. a) Straits south of Sardinia as far as Algiers.
 - b) Sicilian Channel.
- III. a) U 453: 2340 CP 7334 2 destroyers, westerly course, high speed.

 U 97: 0307 CP 8371 2 escort vessels, 3 steamers, course 70°, speed 8 knots.

 U 372: 0349 CP 7256 convoy, course 184°.

 U 372: 0448 CP 7262 convoy, easterly course.
 - b) ./.
 - c) 1820 CP 7283 British aircraft reported U-boat escaping by submerging.
 - d) ./.
 - e) Italian Navy:

1720 CJ 8926 1 submarine.

- IV. U 77 (Schonder) and U 372 (Neumann) were requested for situation reports. Both reports were received. Neumann reported slight traffic, slight or no air patrol, up to now no sinkings. Schonder reported no traffic. U 453 (Schlippenbach) reported at 2340 in CP 7334 2 destroyers, westerly course, high U 97 (Burgel) contacted 3 steamers and 2 escort vessels in CP 8371 at 0307. Formation is steering on a course of 70°, speed 8 knots. U 372 (Neumann) reported a convoy, course 1840, in CP 7256 at 0345. At 0448 the boat reported another convoy in CP 7262, easterly course. The following radio message was received from Flag Officer German Naval Command: "Change in the situation compels me to keep every available officer here. Therefore cannot spare Lt. Cdr. Oehrn at present."
- V. a) ./.
 - b) ./.

(Signed) Kreisch.

30 June, 1942

I. a) U 562 CP 5290, U 77 CP 5860, U 97 CP 8250, U 453 CP 7330, U 372 CP 7310, U 375 CJ 5450.

- b) ./.
- II. a) ./.
 - b) Sicilian Channel, Malta area, Alexandria area, Port Said, Haifa, Beirut.
- III. a) ./.
 - b) 0800 CP 8327 l gunboat, 5 steamers, course 30°.
 2225 CP 7279 2 destroyers, 3 escort vessels,
 l steamer, course 270°.
 2225 l large unit put out from Alexandria.
 In Haifa and Beirut embarkation of troops recognizable.
 - 0750 CP 7329 l torpedoboat, 2 small steamers, course 90°.
 - c) 0800 CP 8351 cover name "Tomtom" attacked by aircraft.

 1355 CP 5955 auxiliary ship reported a surfaced U-boat.

 1548 CP 8345 Haifa reported a surfaced U-boat.

1857 CP 7161 aircraft reported a surfaced U-boat, course 60°, speed 8 knots.

2238 CP 8327 Haifa reported a surfaced U-boat. 0050 CP 5838 aircraft reported a U-boat.

- d) ./.
- e) ./.
- IV. A short signal and a radio message have been heard but could not be taken down properly because of strong atmospherics. The radio message was from U 372 (Neumann) as was the short signal probably. A request was made for them to be repeated. At 2245 a radio message was received from U 372. The boat reported that it successfully attacked the convoy sighted yesterday at 0448 in CP 7236 and that eastbound traffic was heavy.
- V. a) U 372 (Neumann) reported: A transport of 13,000 G.R.T., belonging to the second convoy, sunk in CP 7236. Heavy eastbound traffic.
 - b) ./.

Note:

Italian Radio Intercept Service situation report read:

At 0830 the leader of a destroyer formation, which is in the Alexandria zone, sent a tactically operational telegram to a unit of the convoy escort, and another short tactical Most Immediate telegram followed. Probably these units had encountered U-boats. It is possible that this radio message referred to the attack by Neumann.

VI. 1815 Captain U-boats left on duty trip to Messina.

(Signed) Kreisch.

